

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

11
APR.

Featuring:
THE LONG-AWAITED
"RETURN of
DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!"

"TURNING POINT!"
SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN SPIDER-MAN
DECIDES TO REVEAL HIS
SECRET IDENTITY TO
SOMEONE ELSE! WILL
HE REALLY DO IT?
WILL THIS BE THE
TURNING POINT OF
HIS AMAZING CAREER?
OR--? BUT WHY NOT
TURN THESE PAGES
AND LEARN FOR
YOURSELF, IN THIS
CLASSIC TALE,
TOLD IN THE
MARVELOUS
MARVEL MANNER!



ANOTHER
SPECTACULAR
SMASH-HIT
FROM THE
HOUSE OF IDEAS!



"TURNING POINT"

featuring **THE RETURN OF**
Dr. OCTOPUS!

I HATE YOU,
SPIDER-MAN!
I'LL HATE YOU
TILL THE DAY
I DIE!

IS SPIDER-
MAN DESTINED
TO LOSE BETTY
BRANT, THE
GIRL HE LOVES?
HOW
DID IT
HAPPEN...
AND
WHY?

NONE BUT **STAN LEE**
COULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS
EPIC TALE !!

NONE BUT **STEVE DITKO**
COULD HAVE DRAWN SUCH
GRIPPING SCENES!

LETTERED BY **S. ROSEN.**

NONE BUT THE MIGHTY **MARVEL COMICS GROUP**
COULD HAVE PRODUCED A BOOK-LENGTH THRILLER SUCH AS THIS!

SEE: DIABOLICAL DOCTOR OCTOPUS, MORE DANGEROUS
THAN EVER BEFORE!

SEE: THE SECRET OF BETTY BRANT... REVEALED FOR
THE FIRST TIME!

SEE: SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST VICTORY... AND HIS
MOST BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT!

A WORLD-FAMOUS SUPER-HERO DOESN'T SPEND **ALL** HIS TIME FIGHTING DEADLY MENACES! THERE ARE MOMENTS HE SPENDS ALONE, DEEP IN THOUGHT, MULLING OVER THE PAST AND PONDERING THE FUTURE! SUCH A SUPER-HERO IS **SPIDER-MAN**, AND SUCH A MOMENT IS **THIS** ...

EVER SINCE BETTY BRANT LEFT TOWN I'VE BEEN CARRYING A KING-SIZED **TORCH**! I'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT... GOT TO TRY TO **FORGET** HER!

AW, WHO AM I KIDDING! I'LL **NEVER** FORGET HER!...NEVER STOP SEARCHING FOR HER!

IF ONLY I KNEW **WHY** SHE LEFT TOWN SO SUDDENLY! IF ONLY I HAD SOME **CLUE**... SAY! WHAT'S THAT ON THE **RADIO**??

WE INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAM FOR A BULLETIN! HAVING SERVED HIS FULL PRISON TERM, THE NOTORIOUS **DOCTOR OCTOPUS** IS TO BE RELEASED TODAY...

HEARING THAT TERSE ANNOUNCEMENT, SPIDER-MAN SUDDENLY FORGETS BETTY BRANT FOR THE MOMENT AS HE TRAVELS BACK IN MEMORY TO ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS BATTLES OF HIS ENTIRE CAREER ... *

DOCTOR OCTOPUS TO BE **RELEASED**?!? THEY CAN'T **DO** IT! THEY **MUSTN'T**! HE'S ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN ALIVE!! EVEN **I**, WITH ALL MY POWER, CAME CLOSE TO BEING DEFEATED BY HIM!!

THAT BLASTED WEB! IT'S SPREAD OUT OVER MY GLASSES! I-I **CAN'T SEE**! CAN'T GET IT OFF!

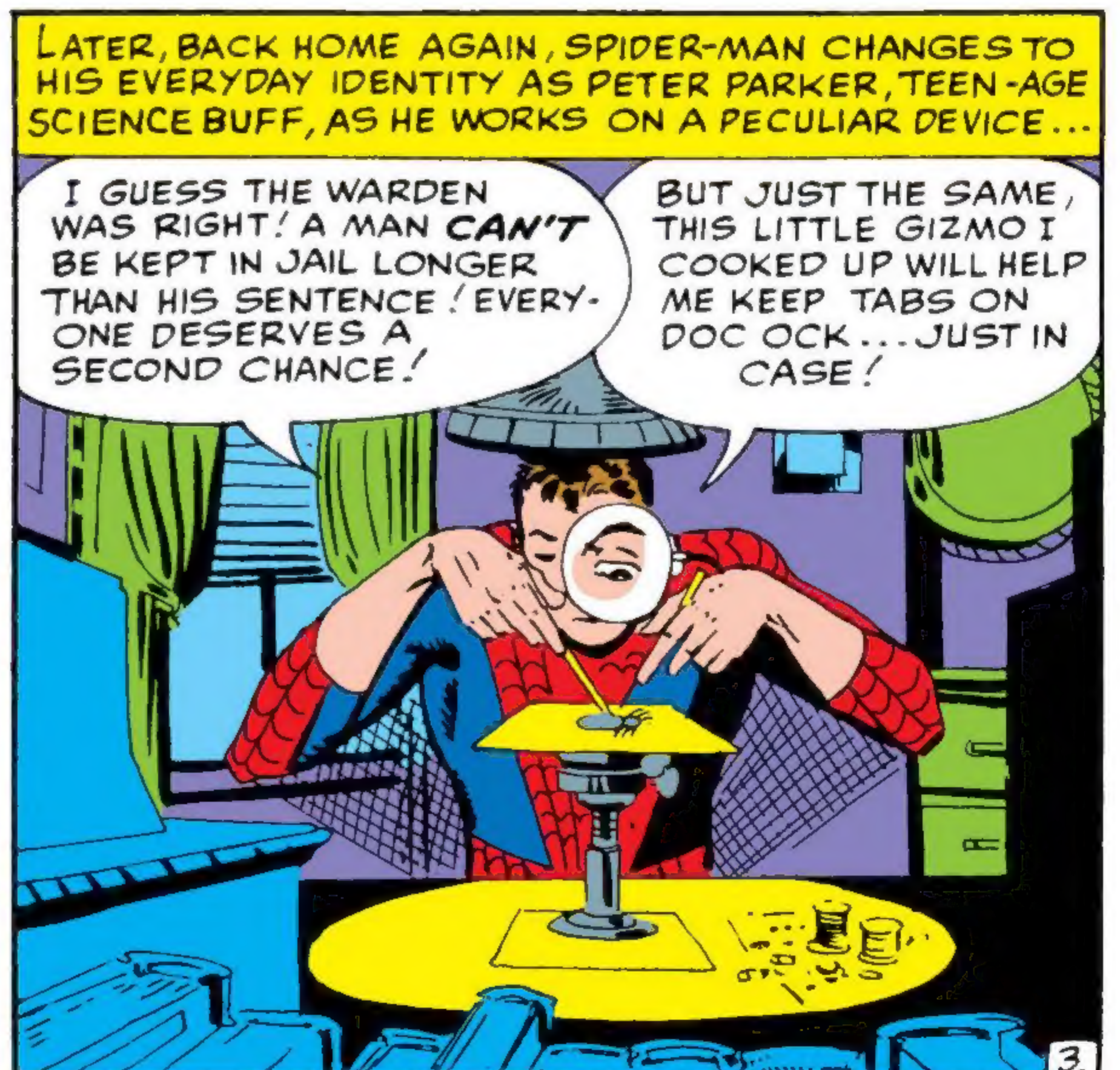
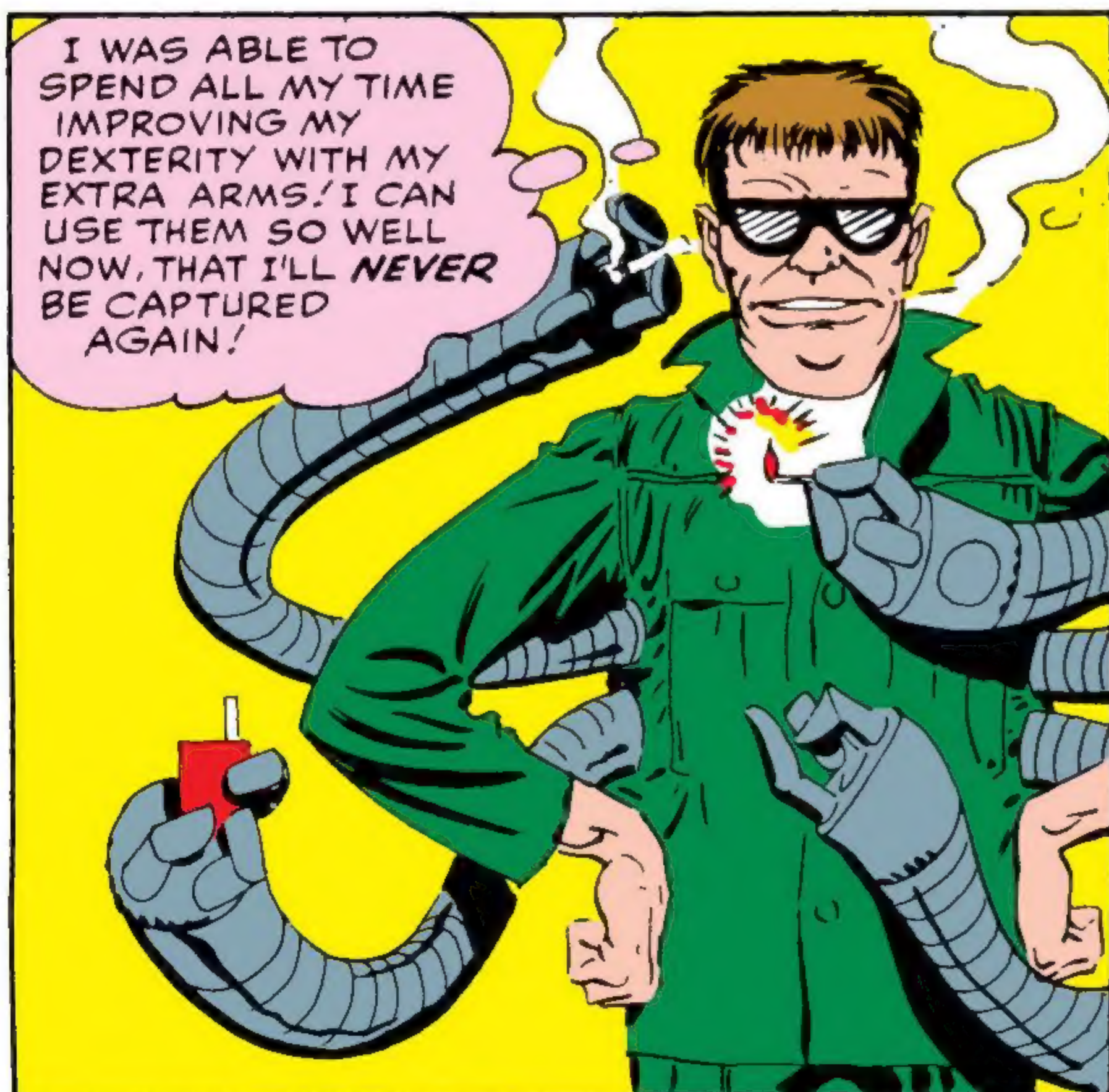
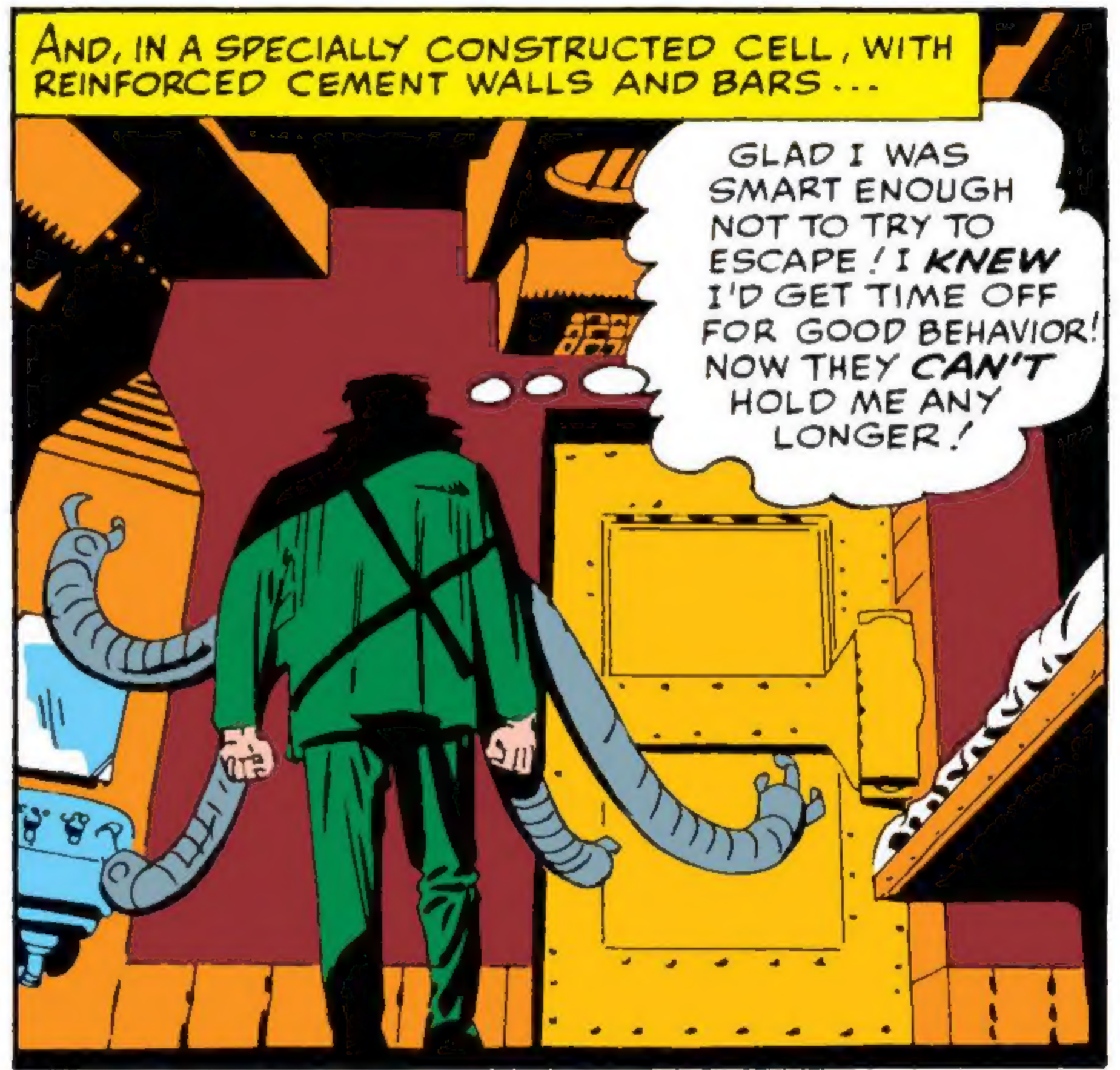
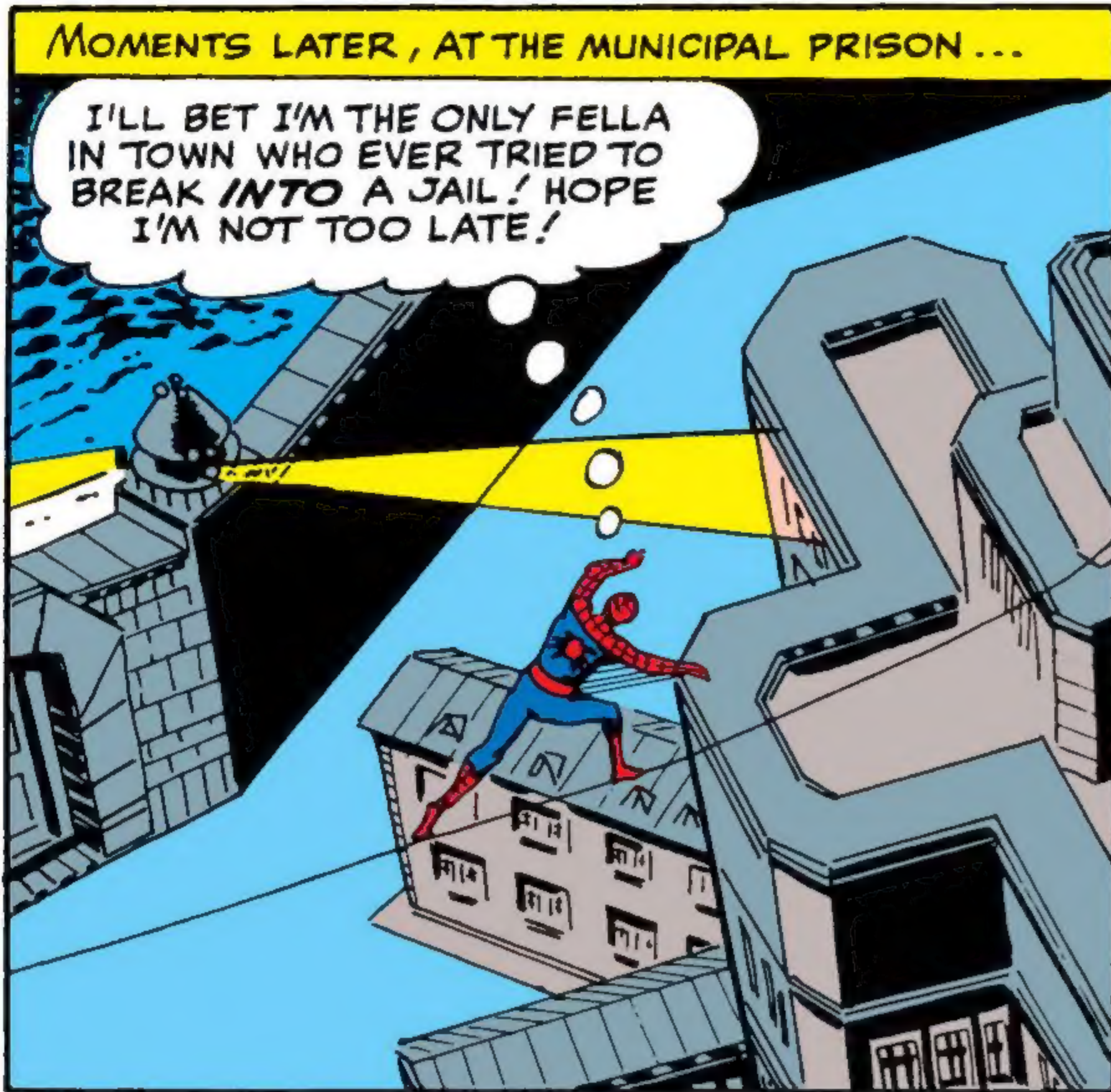
EVEN THOUGH HE CAN NO LONGER SEE ME, HIS OTHER ARMS ARE NOW AROUND ME... PULLING ME TOWARD HIM WITH HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!

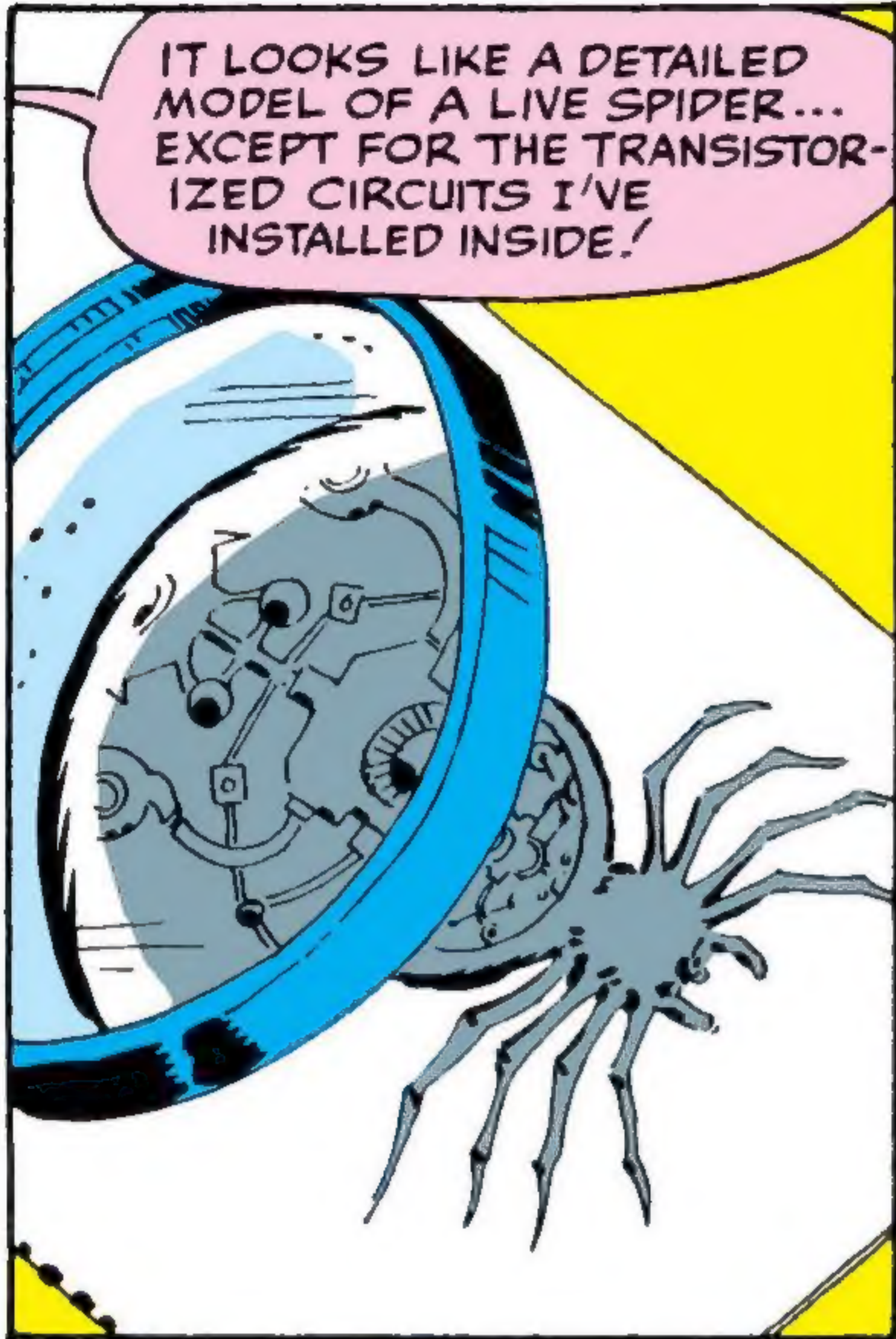
* SPIDER MAN VS. DR. OCTOPUS, ISSUE #3 - ED.

WITHIN SECONDS, THE DRAMATIC TEEN-AGE CRIME-FIGHTER LEAPS INTO ACTION...

I'VE GOT TO TRY TO **PREVENT** THEM FROM **RELEASING** HIM! HE **MUSTN'T** BE ALLOWED TO MENACE MANKIND AGAIN!

IT FEELS **GREAT** TO BE ON THE GO AGAIN... WITH THE WIND TEARING AT ME AS I SWING HIGH OVER THE ROOFTOPS! **THIS** IS WHAT I NEEDED!





IT LOOKS LIKE A DETAILED MODEL OF A LIVE SPIDER... EXCEPT FOR THE TRANSISTORIZED CIRCUITS I'VE INSTALLED INSIDE!



NO MATTER WHERE IT IS, IT WILL SEND BACK CODED MESSAGES TO ME WHICH I CAN PICK UP WITH MY SMALL PORTABLE RECEIVER!



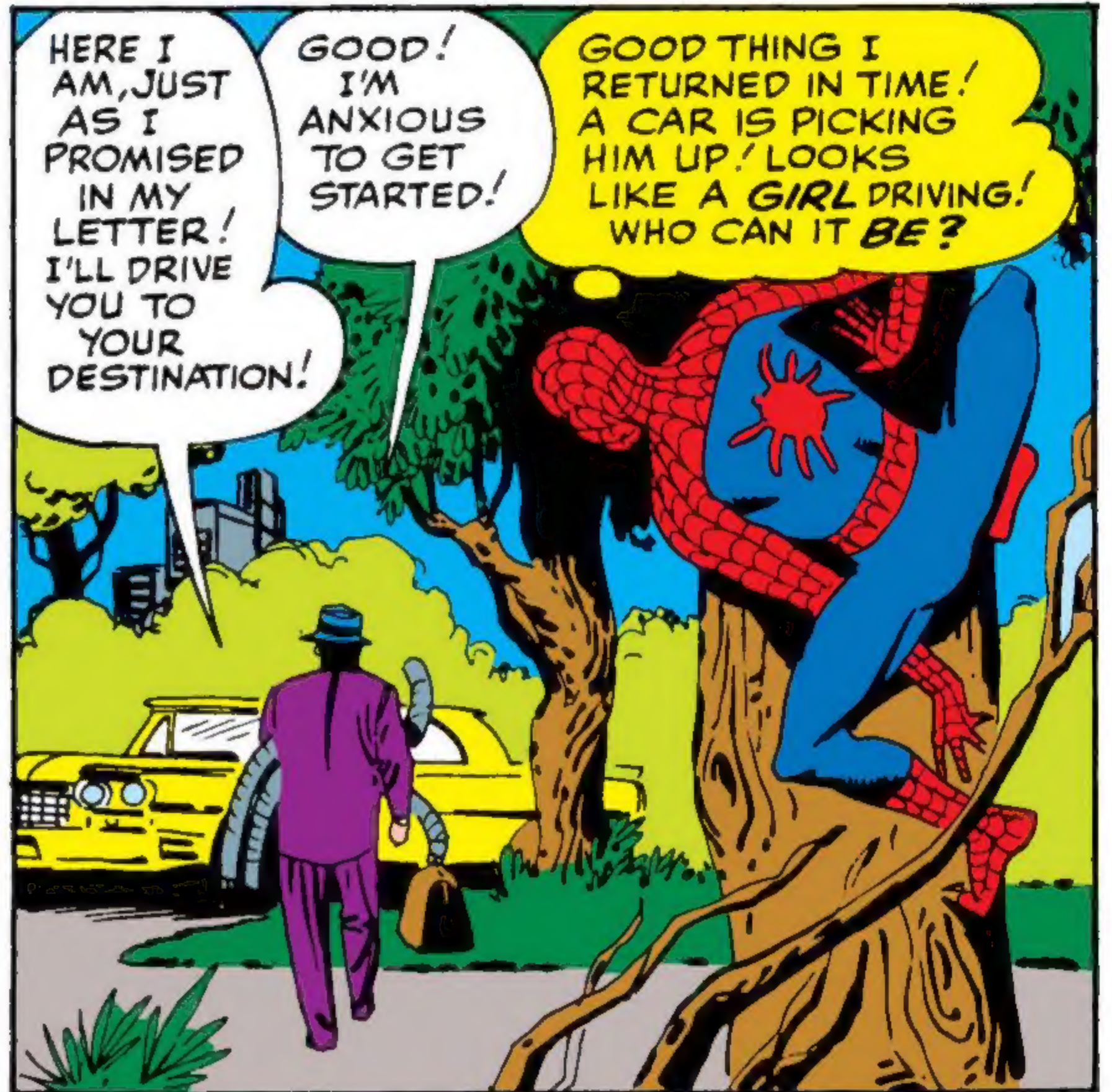
NOW, MY ONLY PROBLEM IS...HOW DO I ATTACH IT TO DOC OCK ?? OH, WELL, I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT SPIDER-MAN WILL FIND A WAY TO DO IT!



A FEW HOURS LATER, BACK AT THE PRISON...

WITH YOUR TALENT, DOC, IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD FOR YOU TO LAND A GOOD JOB! JUST KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN, FELLA!

A **JOB!!** DO THEY EXPECT ME TO BECOME A WORKING MAN, LIKE AN ORDINARY, UNIMAGINATIVE WEAKLING ?? BEFORE I'M THROUGH, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE MENTION OF MY NAME!



HERE I AM, JUST AS I PROMISED IN MY LETTER! I'LL DRIVE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION!

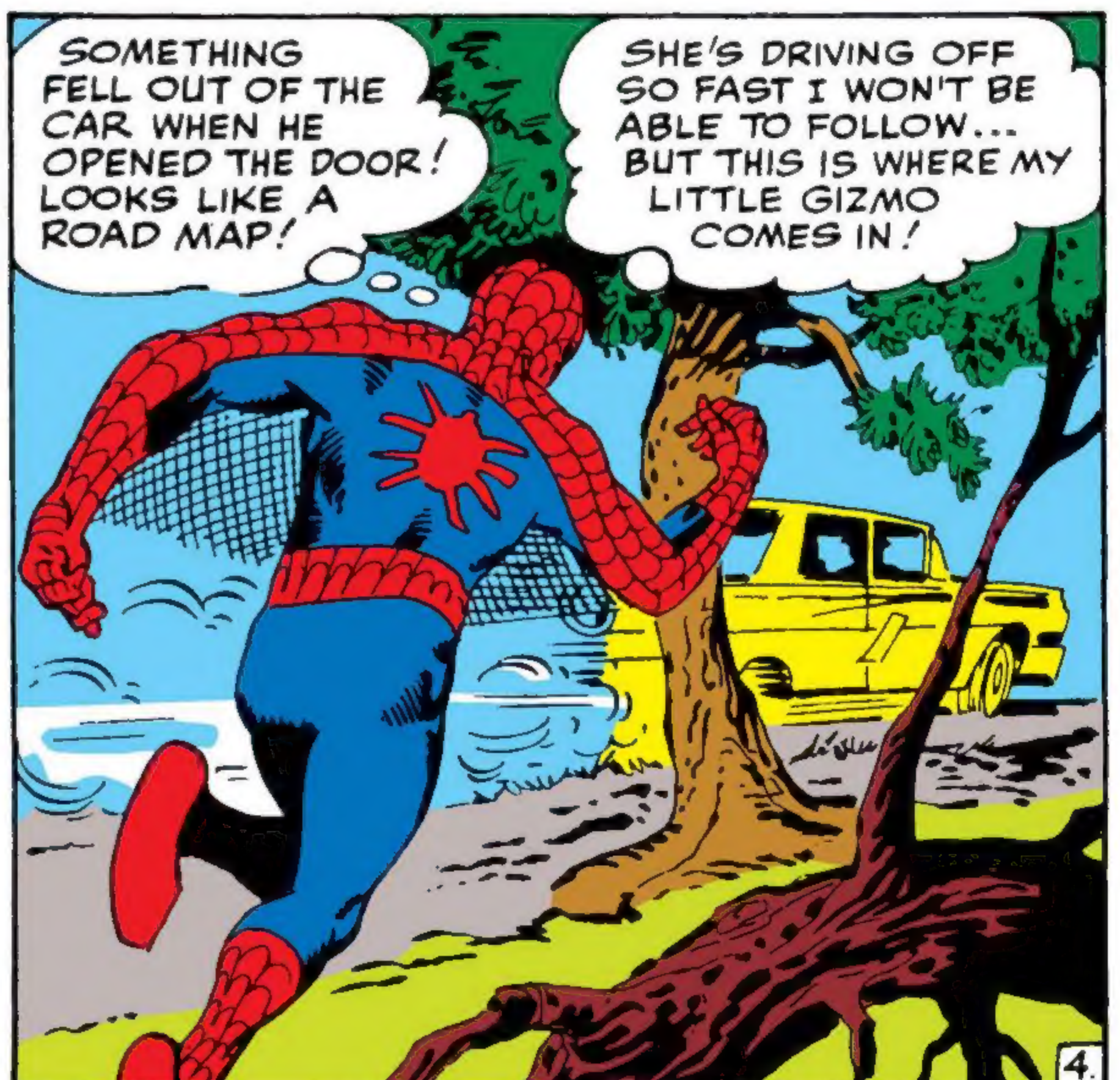
GOOD! I'M ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED!

GOOD THING I RETURNED IN TIME! A CAR IS PICKING HIM UP! LOOKS LIKE A **GIRL** DRIVING! WHO CAN IT **BE?**



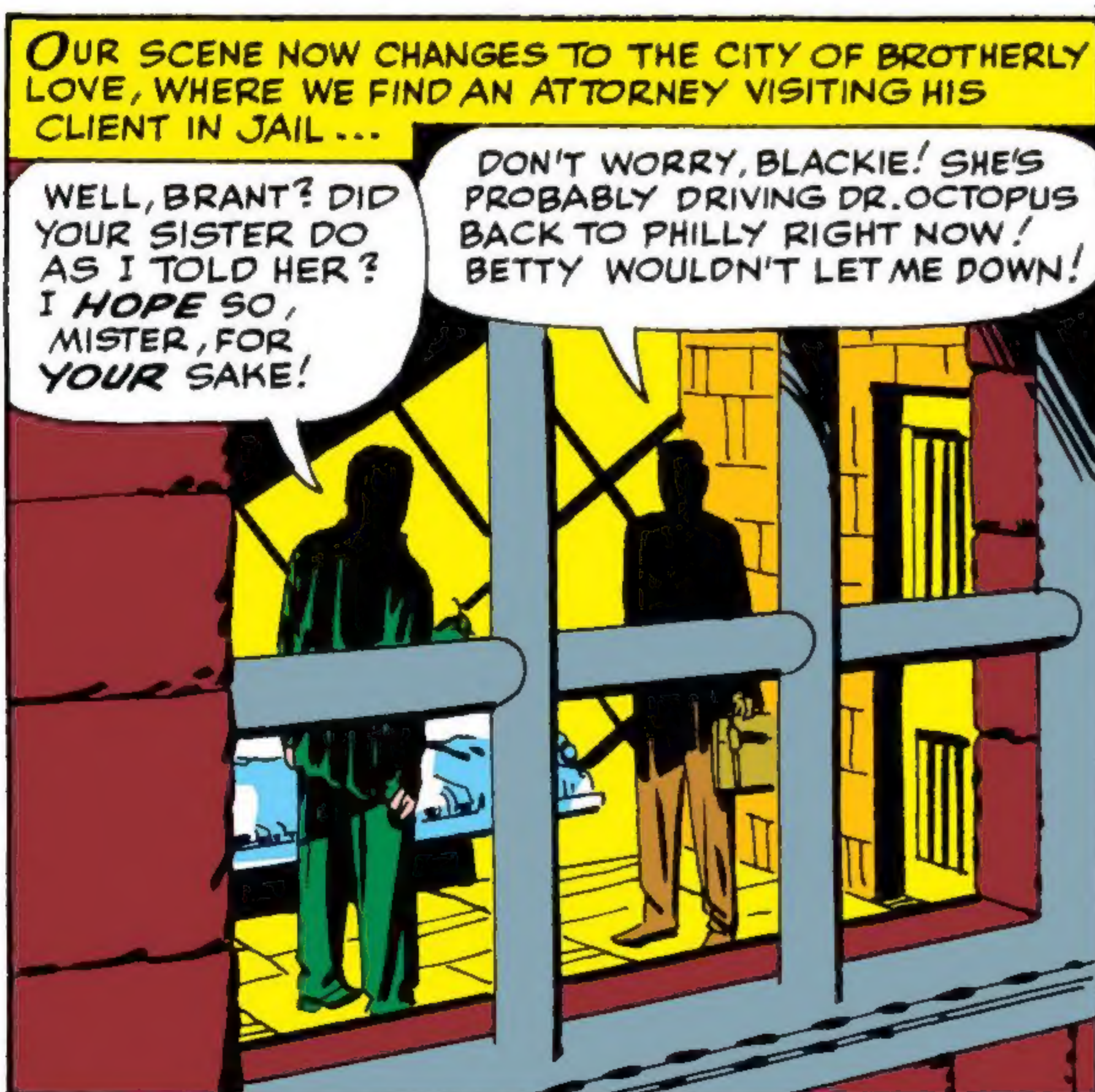
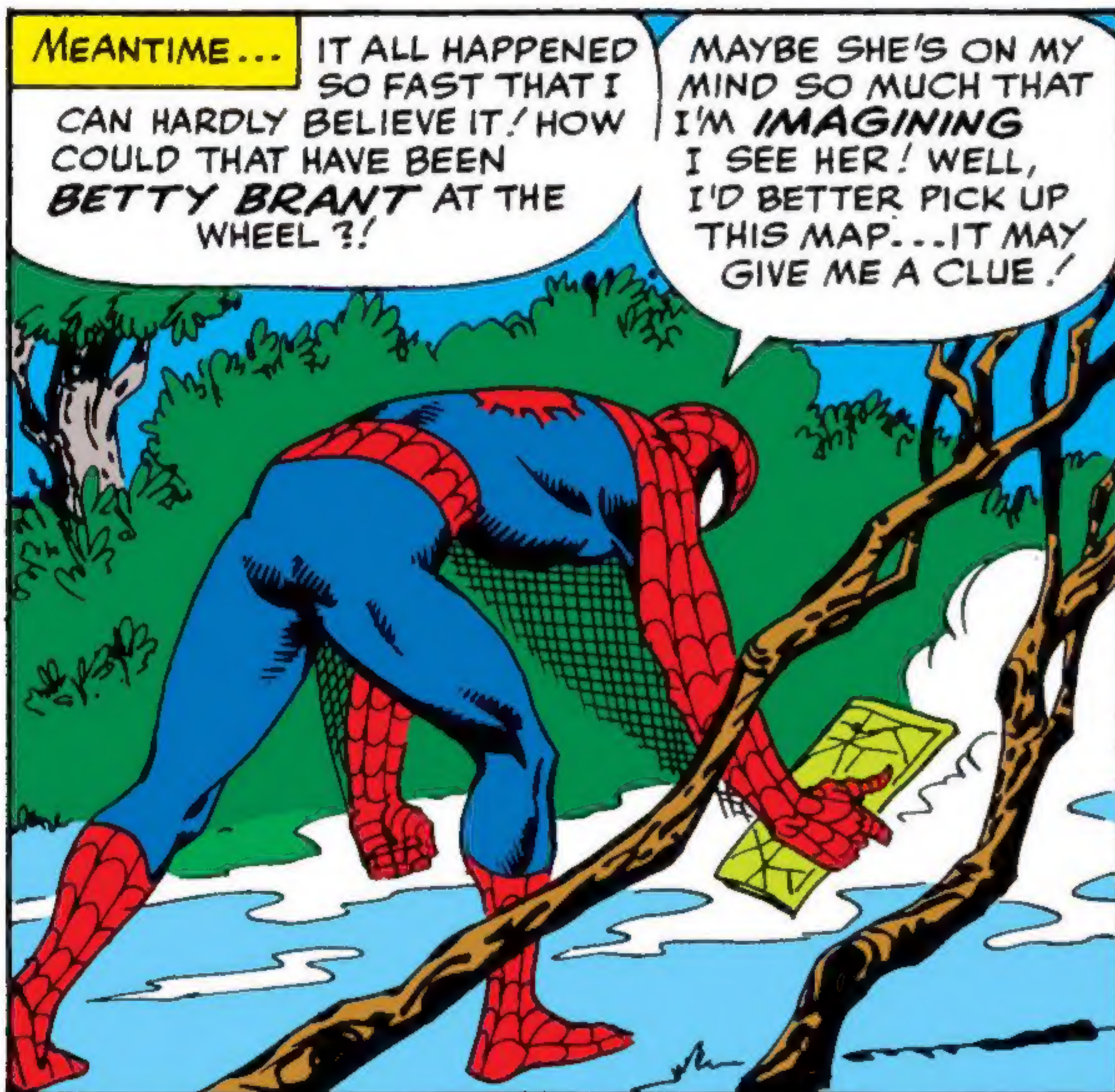
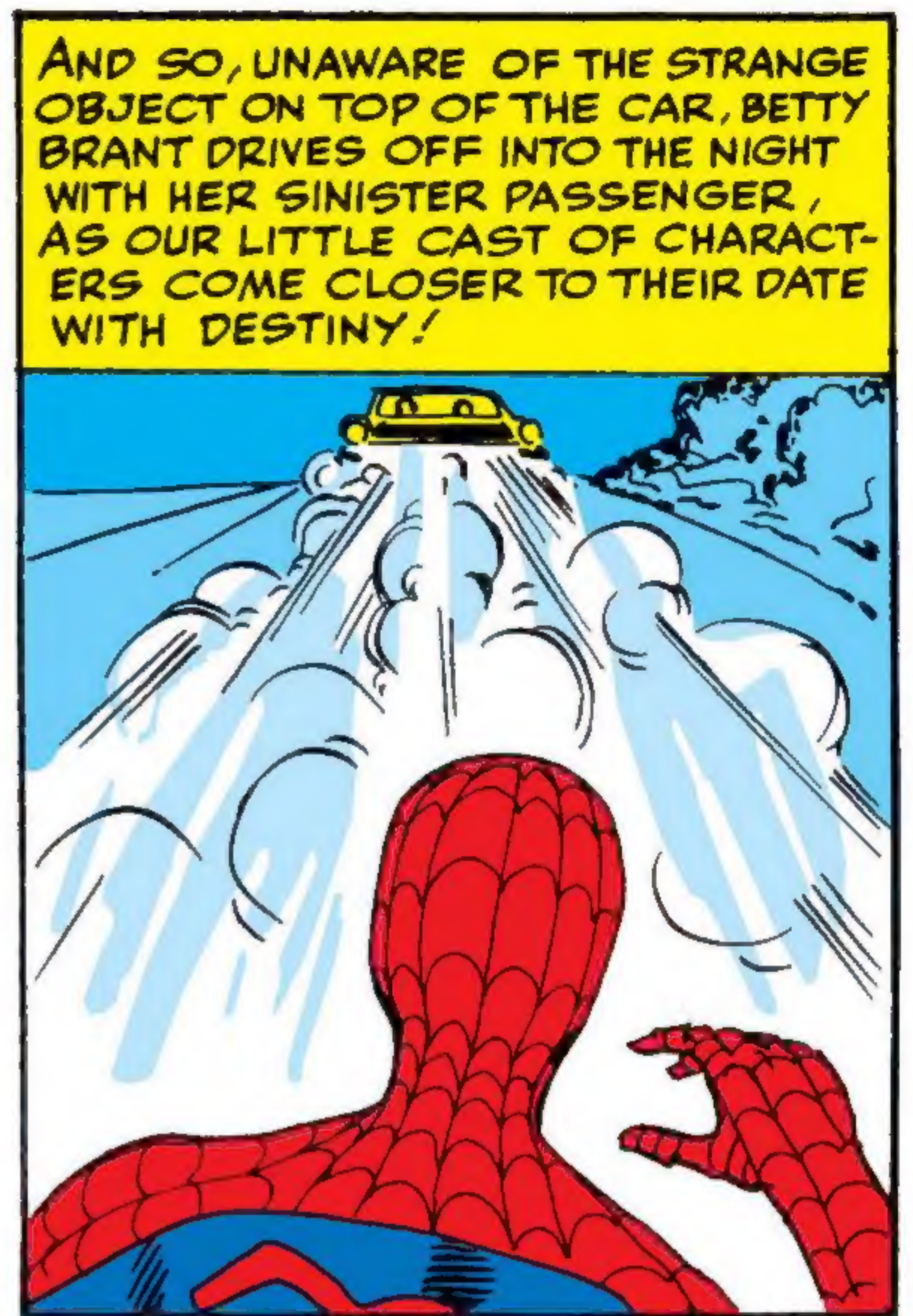
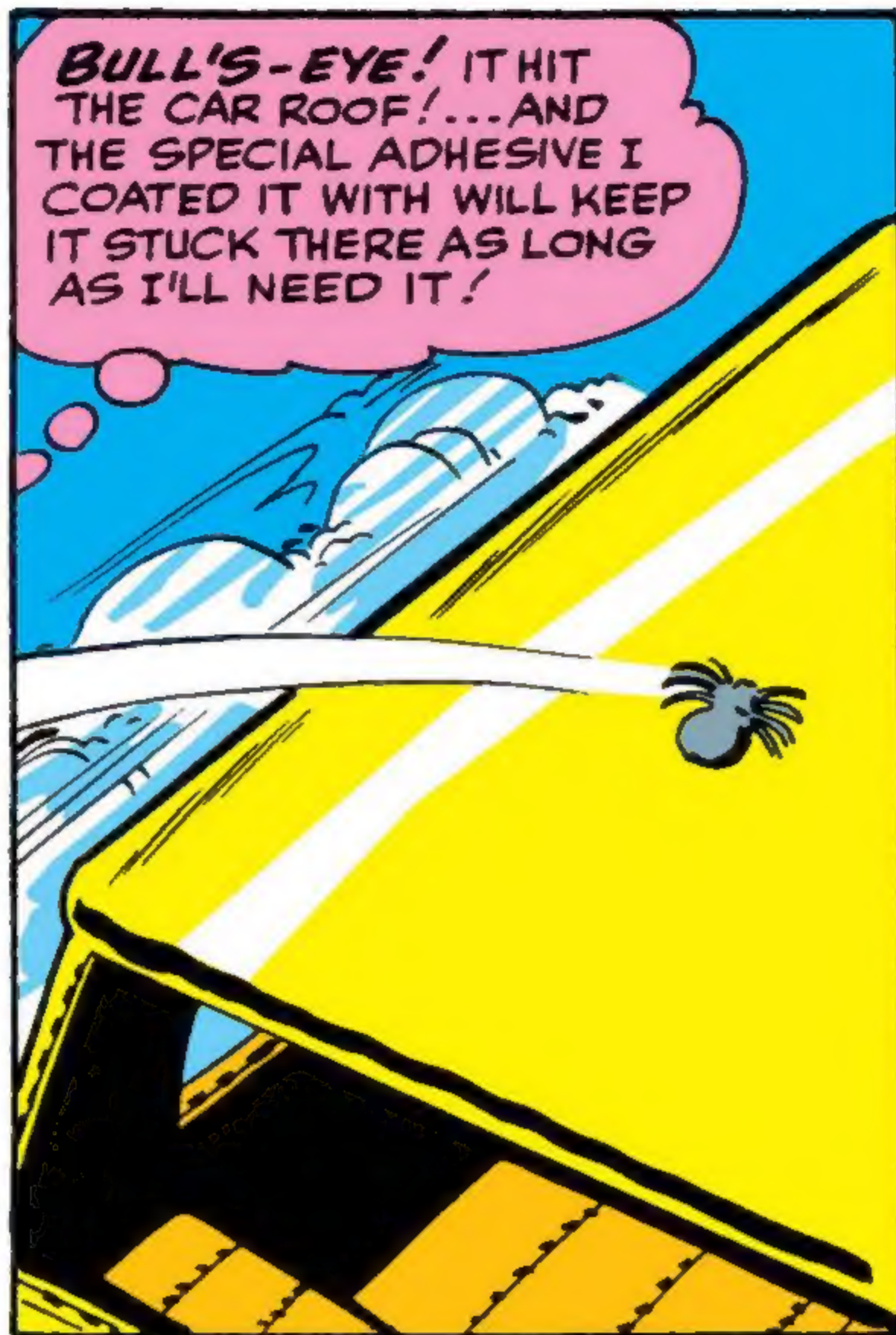
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE! IT WILL BE A LONG DRIVE!

IT...IT'S **BETTY!!** BUT... WHAT'S **HER** CONNECTION WITH DOCTOR OCTOPUS ??!



SOMETHING FELL OUT OF THE CAR WHEN HE OPENED THE DOOR! LOOKS LIKE A ROAD MAP!

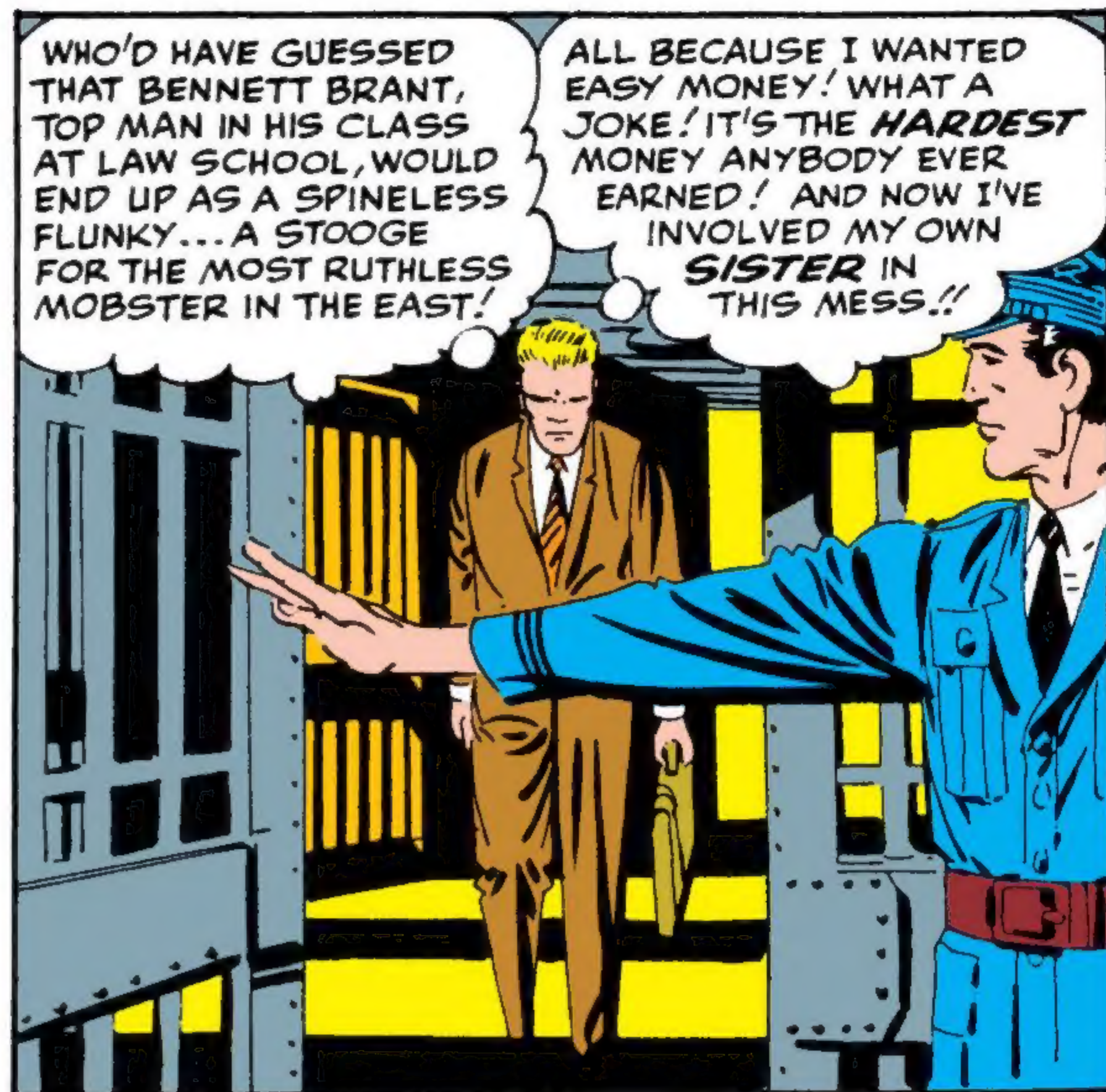
SHE'S DRIVING OFF SO FAST I WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW... BUT THIS IS WHERE MY LITTLE GIZMO COMES IN!





I'LL CANCEL THE DOUGH YOU OWE ME AS SOON AS DR. OCTOPUS SPRINGS ME FROM JAIL! AND NO SOONER! NOW GET LOST... I'VE GOT SOME THINKIN' TO DO!

SURE, BLACKIE... I'LL GO...



WHO'D HAVE GUESSED THAT BENNETT BRANT, TOP MAN IN HIS CLASS AT LAW SCHOOL, WOULD END UP AS A SPINELESS FLUNKY... A STOOGES FOR THE MOST RUTHLESS MOBSTER IN THE EAST!

ALL BECAUSE I WANTED EASY MONEY! WHAT A JOKE! IT'S THE HARDEST MONEY ANYBODY EVER EARNED! AND NOW I'VE INVOLVED MY OWN SISTER IN THIS MESS!!

LOST IN HIS OWN RUEFUL THOUGHTS, THE GANGLAND MOUTHPIECE REACHES HIS APARTMENT, TO FIND...



BETTY! YOU'VE RETURNED! AND YOU'VE BROUGHT DR. OCTOPUS!

SAY... WHAT'S GOING ON!?

SO! YOU DON'T THINK DR. OCTOPUS IS GOOD ENOUGH TO TALK TO YOU, EH? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD SINCE WE DROVE FROM NEW YORK!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! I BROUGHT YOU HERE, AS I SAID I WOULD! BUT NOW I WANT TO GO! I... OH, BENNETT! THANK GOODNESS IT'S YOU!!



A LOT OF GOOD HE'LL DO YOU! I'VE HEARD OF YOU, BRANT! A WEAKLING LAWYER WHO CAN'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT BLACKIE GAXTON'S OKAY!

NOW FOLLOW ME INTO THE OTHER ROOM, BRANT! WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO TALK OVER!



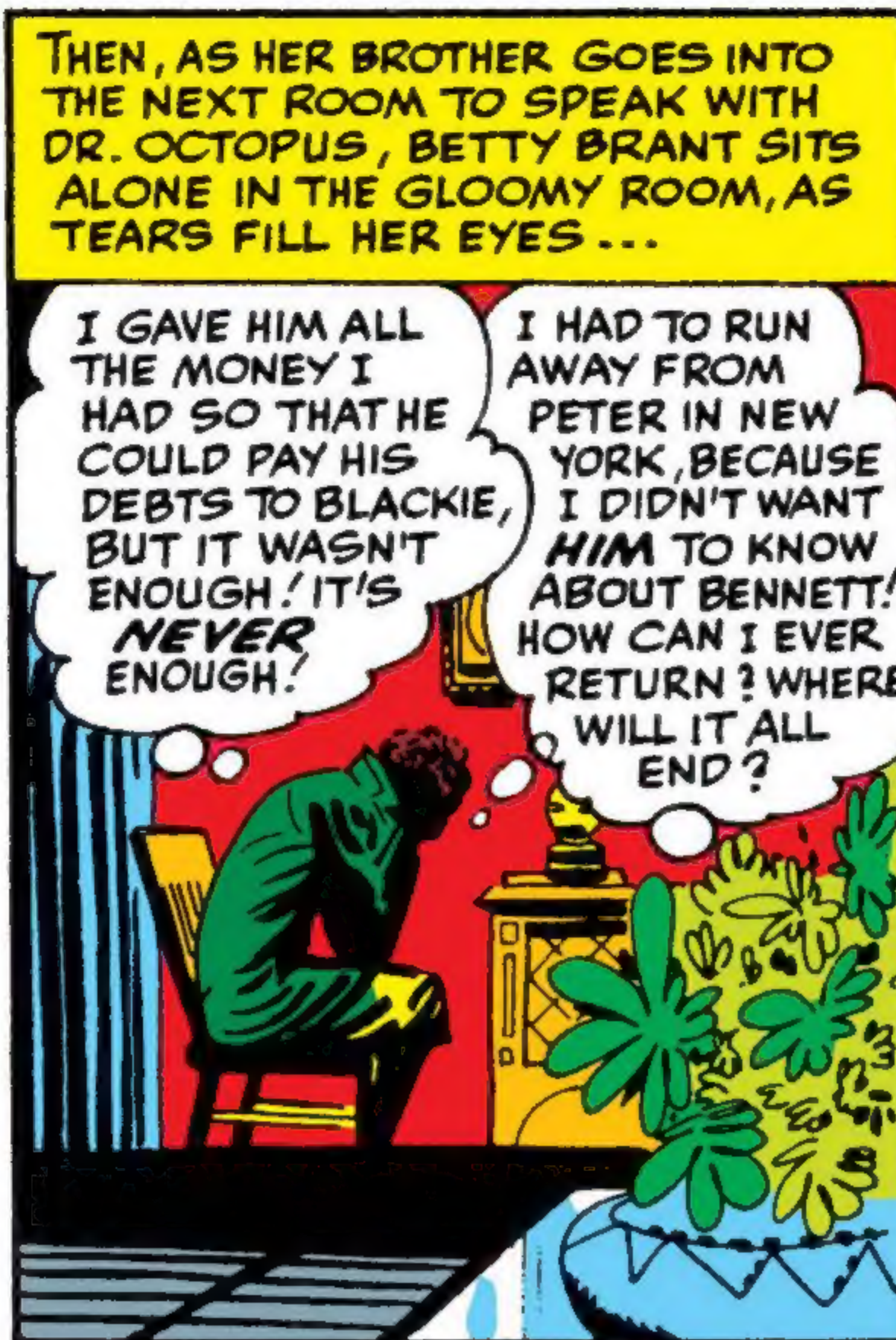
OH, BENNETT, NOW THAT I'VE BROUGHT HIM HERE, AS I PROMISED BLACKIE GAXTON, CAN'T YOU LEAVE? CAN'T YOU GO SOMEWHERE AND MAKE A FRESH START? PLEASE...

NOT YET, BETTY! NOT TILL DR. OCTOPUS HELPS BLACKIE TO BREAK OUT OF JAIL! BUT I PROMISE YOU, SIS... IF I EVER GET FREE OF BLACKIE, I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE... I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME!



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE **JAIL BREAK??** IF YOU STAY, WON'T YOU BE AN **ACCESSORY?** YOU'LL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO GET STRAIGHT!

I JUST **CAN'T** RUN NOW! I HAVEN'T THE COURAGE! IF ONLY I HADN'T GOT YOU MIXED UP IN ALL THIS!



THEN, AS HER BROTHER GOES INTO THE NEXT ROOM TO SPEAK WITH DR. OCTOPUS, BETTY BRANT SITS ALONE IN THE GLOOMY ROOM, AS TEARS FILL HER EYES ...

I GAVE HIM ALL THE MONEY I HAD SO THAT HE COULD PAY HIS DEBTS TO BLACKIE, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH! IT'S **NEVER** ENOUGH!

I HAD TO RUN AWAY FROM PETER IN NEW YORK, BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW ABOUT BENNETT! HOW CAN I EVER RETURN? WHERE WILL IT ALL END?



BUT LITTLE DOES BETTY SUSPECT THAT BACK IN NEW YORK, PETER PARKER IS PLANNING TO FIND HER... TO LEARN HER TRAGIC SECRET...

AUNT MAY, I'M THINKING OF TAKING A LITTLE TRIP THIS WEEK-END! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT PHILADELPHIA AND SEE THE HISTORICAL SITES!

HOW NICE, PETER! THE TRIP WILL DO YOU **GOOD!** YOU'VE BEEN SO LISTLESS LATELY!



PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT GOING **WITH** YOU, DEAR, BUT I'VE SO MANY THINGS TO DO HERE AT HOME!

LUCKY FOR ME THAT YOU **DO!** ANYWAY, YOU MIGHT FIND IT KIND OF TOUGH KEEPING UP WITH **SPIDER-MAN** IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS!

THAT'S OKAY, AUNT MAY! I UNDERSTAND!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, AFTER A JET FROM NEW YORK LANDS AT THE PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT ...

NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND BETTY, SEE WHAT HER CONNECTION WITH DOC OCK IS, MAKE SURE THAT HE ISN'T CAUSING ANY TROUBLE...

...AND BE BACK IN NEW YORK IN TIME FOR CLASS MONDAY MORNING! THAT'S **ALL!**



I MUST HAVE COVERED HALF THE CITY BY NOW, AND STILL NO SIGNAL ON MY PORTABLE RECEIVER!

WELL, I JUST HAVE TO KEEP SEARCHING! GOOD THING I BROUGHT A FULL SUPPLY OF WEB FLUID WITH ME!



FINALLY, AFTER ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES OF SWINGING PAST THE ROOFTOPS ...

AT **LAST!** THERE'S THE SIGNAL! THAT MEANS THE CAR WITH MY LITTLE ELECTRIFIED SPIDER IS SOMEWHERE NEARBY!

CHANGING BACK TO HIS PETER PARKER IDENTITY, SO THAT HE CAN SEARCH THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION, HE FINALLY FINDS ...

BETTY! THEN... IT WAS YOU...!

I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!

PETER! YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ME?? I NEVER DREAMT...!!



BUT I COULDN'T LET YOU JUST WALK OUT OF MY LIFE! YOU... YOU MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME!!

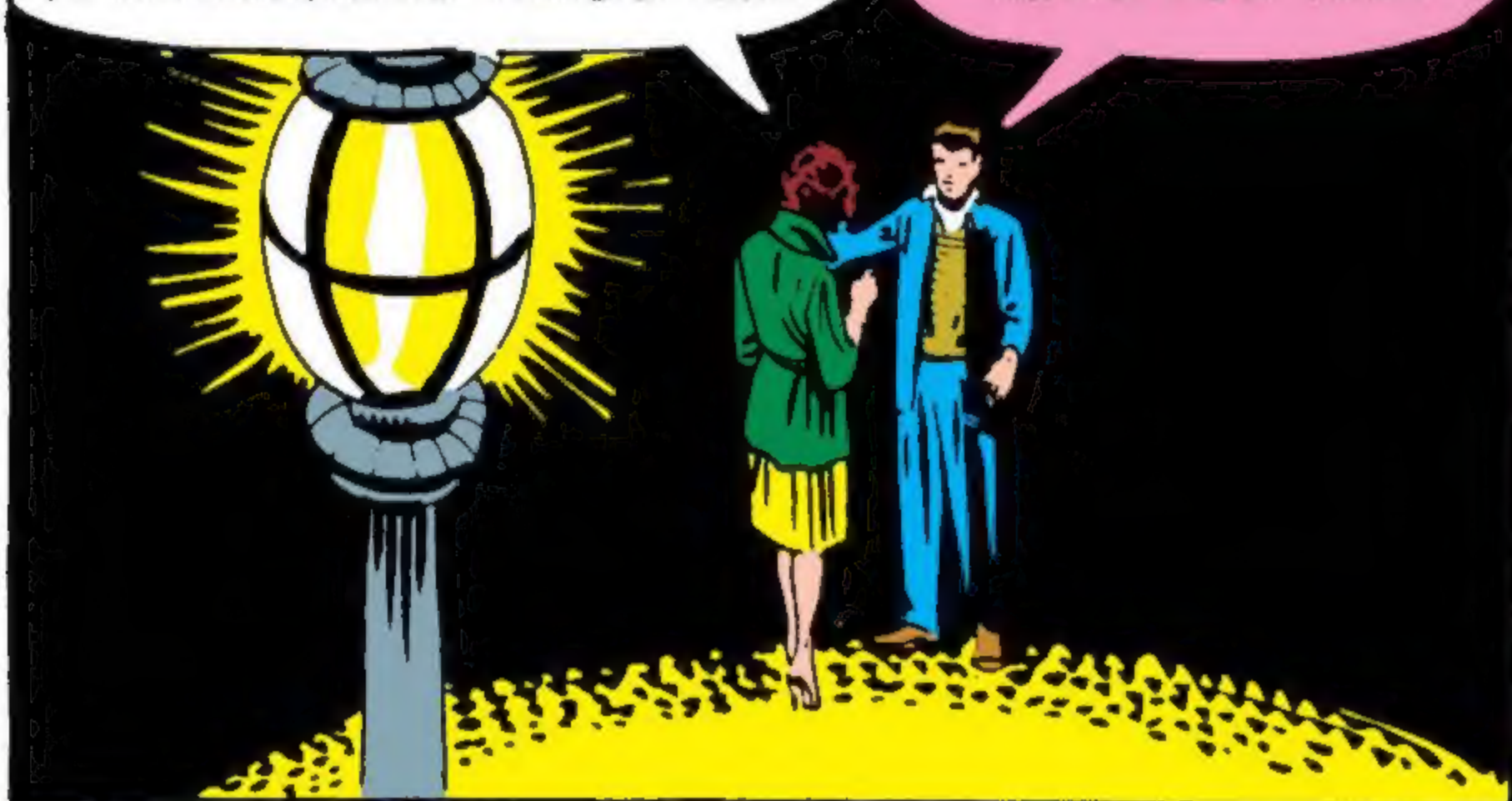
OH, PETER... WHAT A FOOL I WAS! I SHOULD HAVE CONFIDED IN YOU, SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, RIGHT AT THE START!! I... I NEED YOU, PETER! I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN!



AND THEN, HER TREMBLING VOICE CHOKED WITH EMOTION, BETTY TELLS THE BOY SHE LOVES ALL ABOUT HER BROTHER, BLACKIE GAXTON, AND DR. OCTOPUS!

SO I JUST HAD TO DRIVE DR. OCTOPUS HERE, PETER! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP MY BROTHER SAFE FROM BLACKIE'S GANG! I-I WAS ASHAMED TO TELL YOU BEFORE... TO TELL YOU MY BROTHER IS A LAWYER FOR A DANGEROUS MOBSTER!

BUT YOU CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR THAT, BETTY! YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU COULD! I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME... BECAUSE I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!



I JUST LEARNED THAT SPIDER-MAN IS IN PHILLY... TO KEEP TABS ON DR. OCTOPUS! I'M SURE THAT WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OCTOPUS OR BLACKIE GAXTON WITH SPIDER-MAN AROUND!

I'VE JUST DECIDED! I CAN'T KEEP IT FROM HER ANY LONGER! ONCE WE'RE BACK IN NEW YORK, I'M GONNA TELL BETTY THAT I AM SPIDER-MAN!



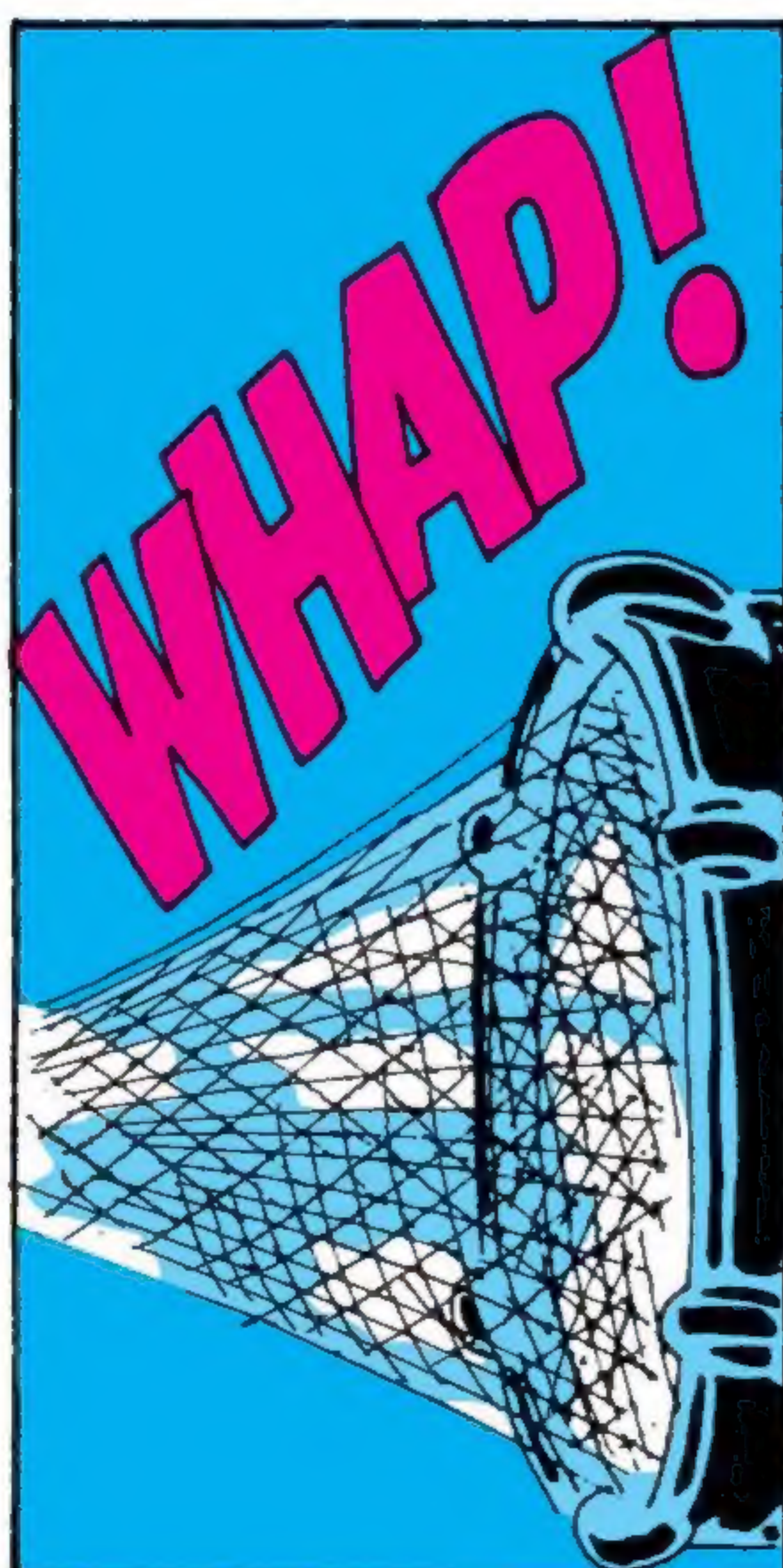
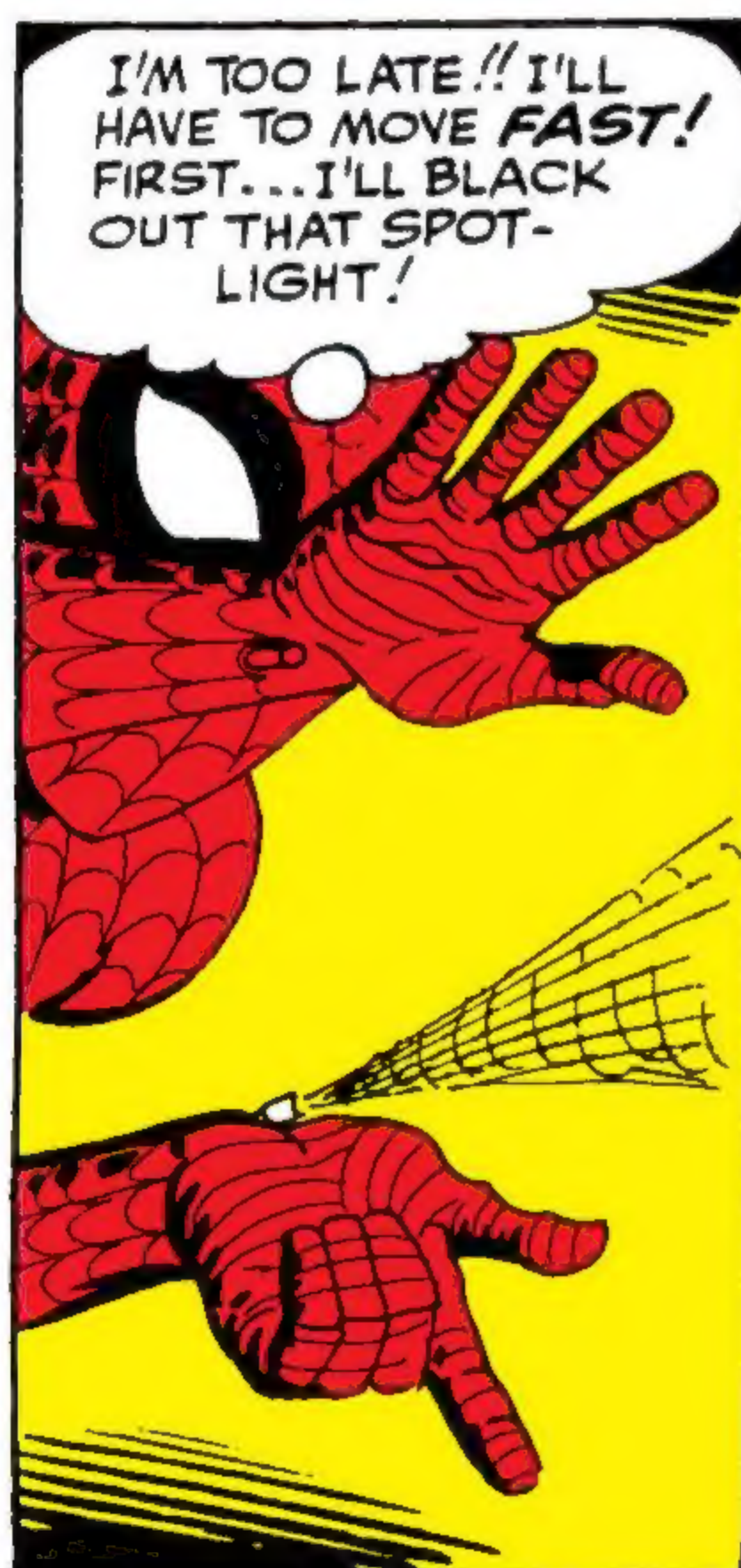
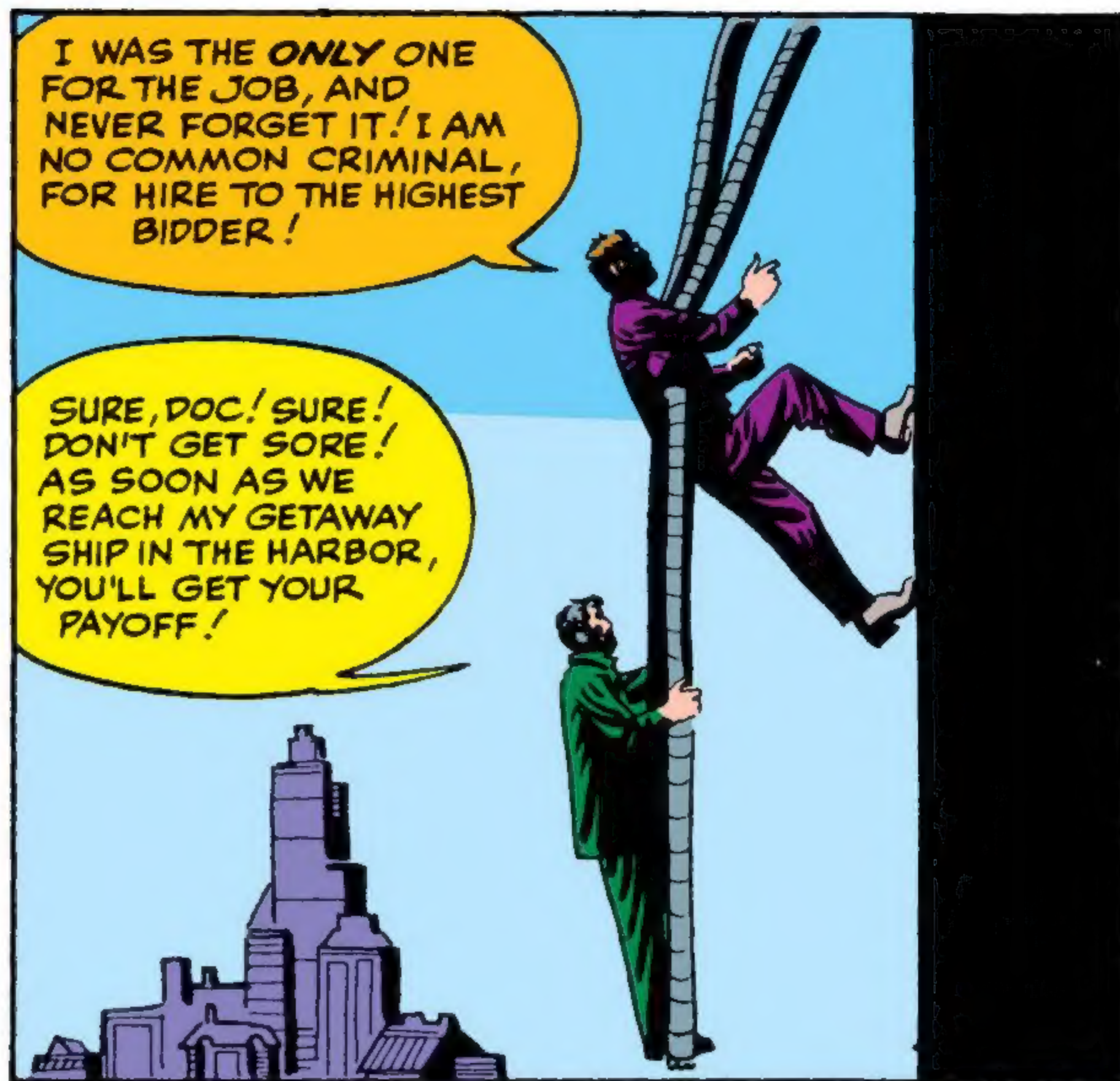
BUT, SOMETIMES FATE HAS OTHER PLANS! FOR, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, A STRANGE MENACING FORM SWINGS FROM ROOF TO ROOF ON A SINISTER MISSION...

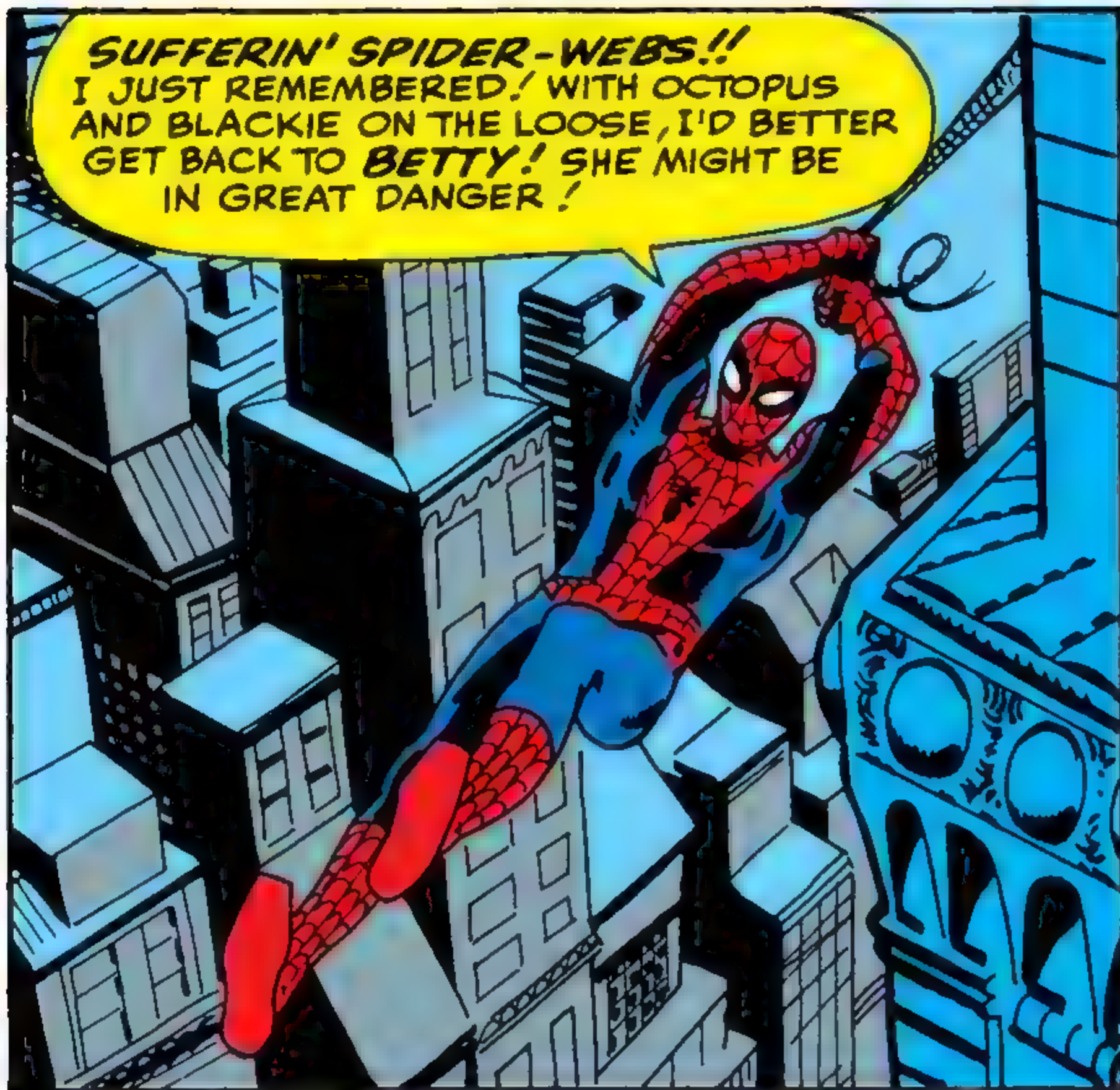
THIS TASK WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR DOCTOR OCTOPUS!!



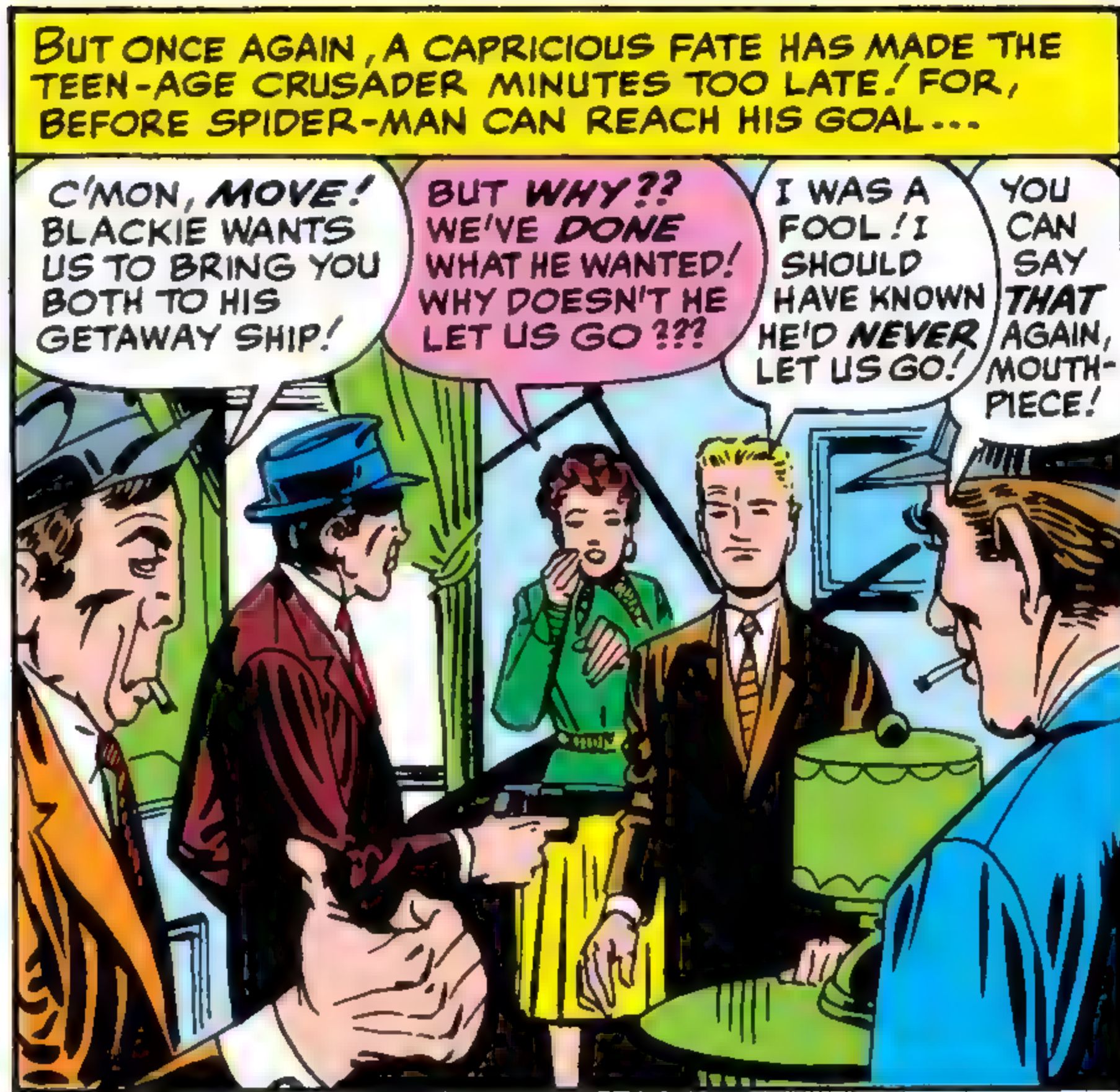
AS SOON AS I COLLECT THE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WHICH BLACKIE WILL PAY ME FOR THIS JOB, I'LL HAVE THE STAKE I NEED TO MAKE MYSELF THE KING OF CRIME!







SUFFERIN' SPIDER-WEBS!!
I JUST REMEMBERED! WITH OCTOPUS
AND BLACKIE ON THE LOOSE, I'D BETTER
GET BACK TO **BETTY!** SHE MIGHT BE
IN GREAT DANGER!



BUT ONCE AGAIN, A CAPRICIOUS FATE HAS MADE THE
TEEN-AGE CRUSADER MINUTES TOO LATE! FOR,
BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN REACH HIS GOAL...

C'MON, MOVE!
BLACKIE WANTS
US TO BRING YOU
BOTH TO HIS
GETAWAY SHIP!

BUT WHY??
WE'VE DONE
WHAT HE WANTED!
WHY DOESN'T HE
LET US GO ???

I WAS A
FOOL! I
SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
HE'D NEVER
LET US GO!

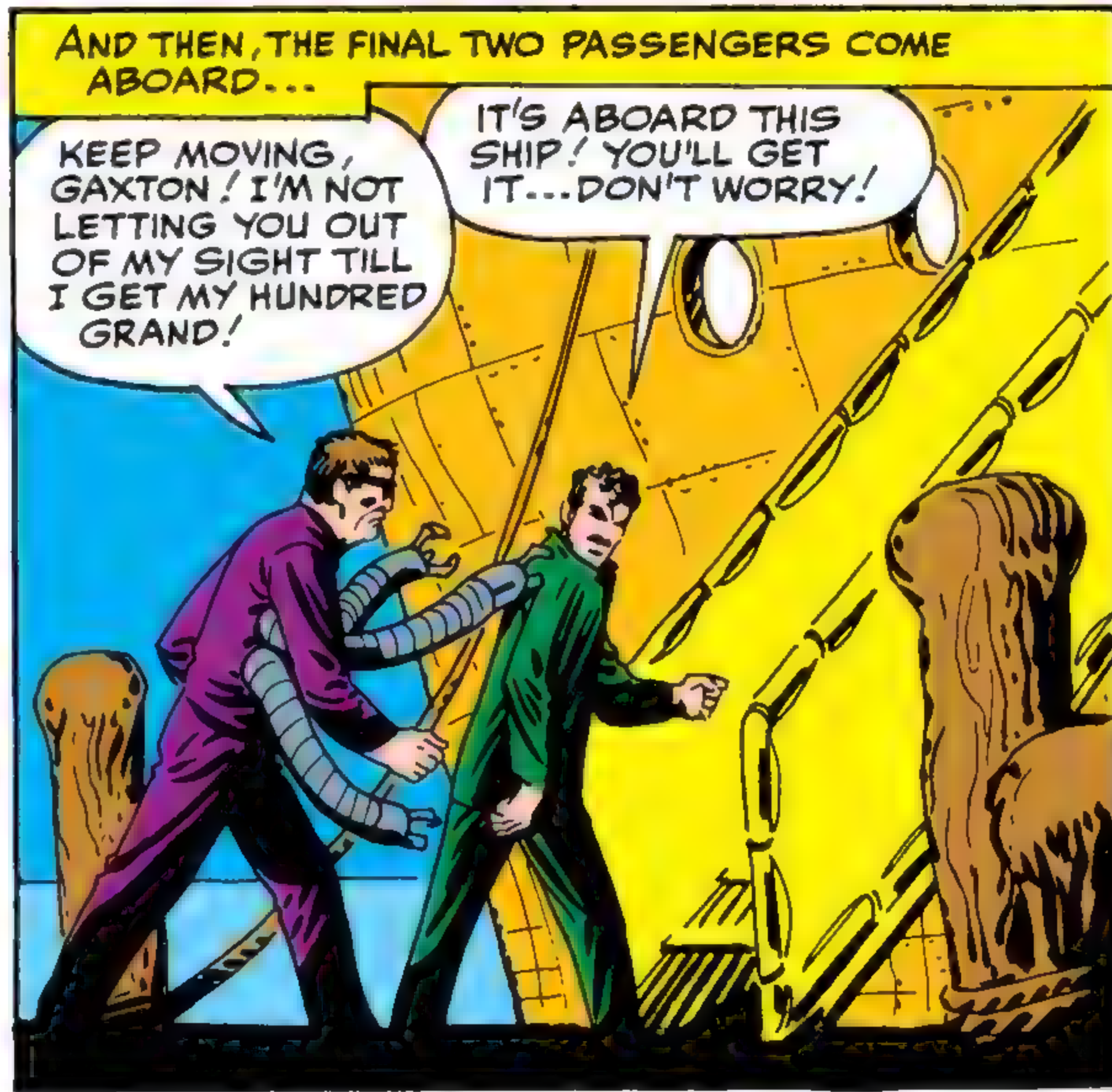
YOU
CAN
SAY
THAT
AGAIN,
MOUTH-
PIECE!



LATER, THE HELPLESS GIRL AND HER BROTHER ARE
TAKEN TO A DINGY TRAMP STEAMER...

WE'LL WAIT ON THIS
OLD TUB UNTIL A LAUNCH
COMES TO PICK US UP!
BLACKIE HAS EVERYTHING
ALL PLANNED!

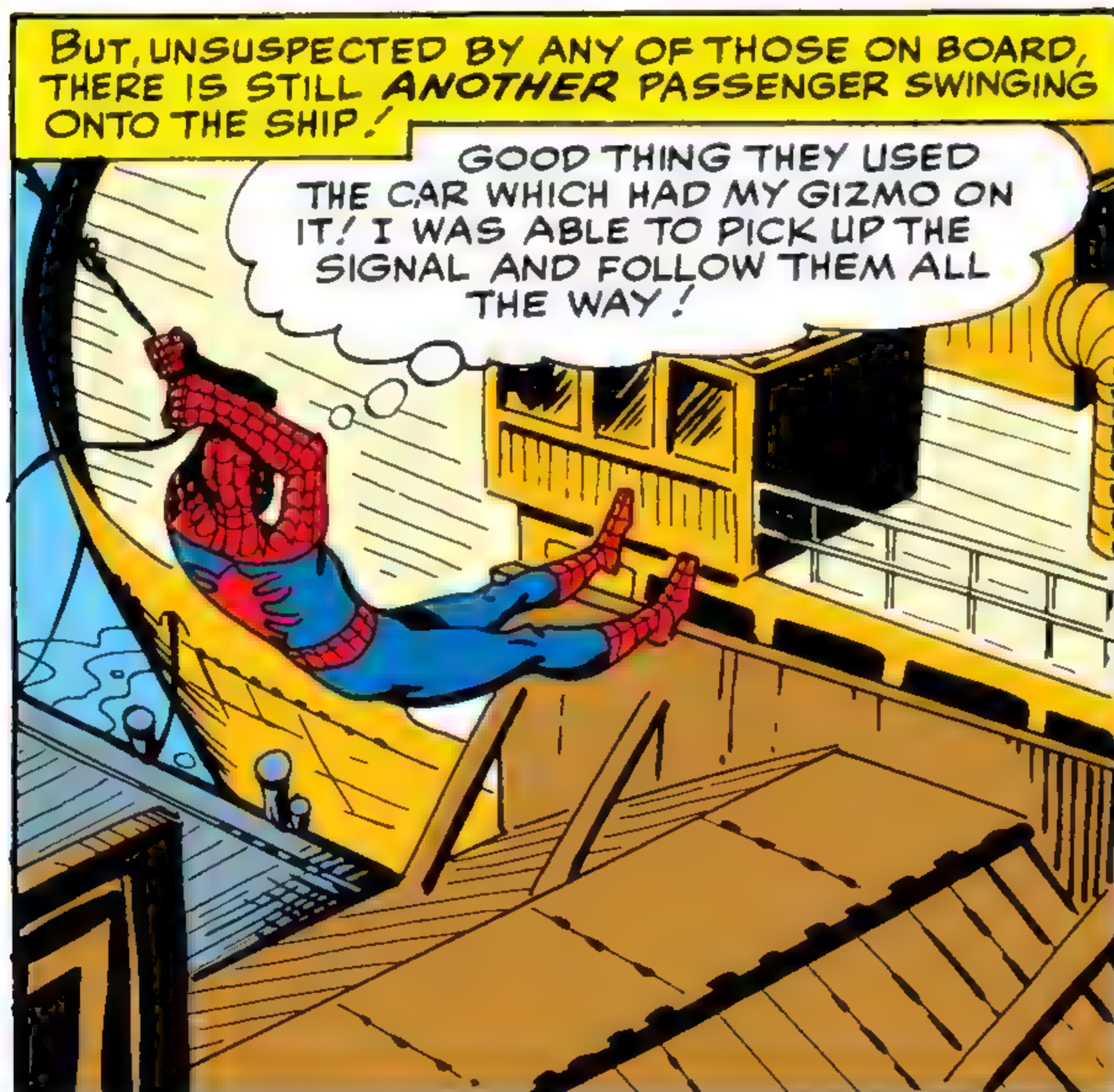
YEAH! THEN WE'LL
SKIP TO SOME FOREIGN
COUNTRY WHERE NO
ONE'LL EVER BE ABLE
TO TOUCH US!



AND THEN, THE FINAL TWO PASSENGERS COME
ABOARD...

KEEP MOVING,
GAXTON! I'M NOT
LETTING YOU OUT
OF MY SIGHT TILL
I GET MY HUNDRED
GRAND!

IT'S ABOARD THIS
SHIP! YOU'LL GET
IT...DON'T WORRY!



BUT, UNSUSPECTED BY ANY OF THOSE ON BOARD,
THERE IS STILL **ANOTHER** PASSENGER SWINGING
ONTO THE SHIP!

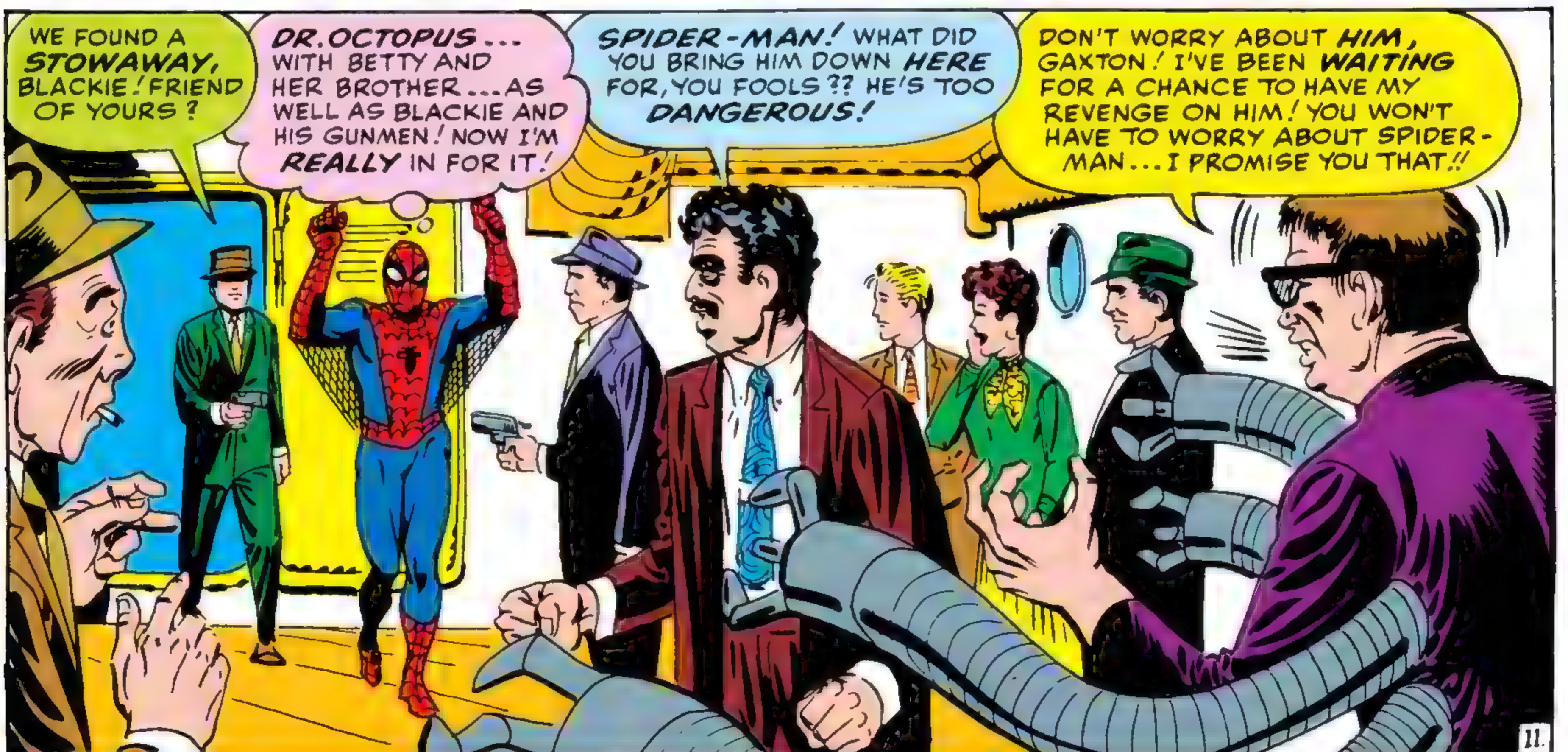
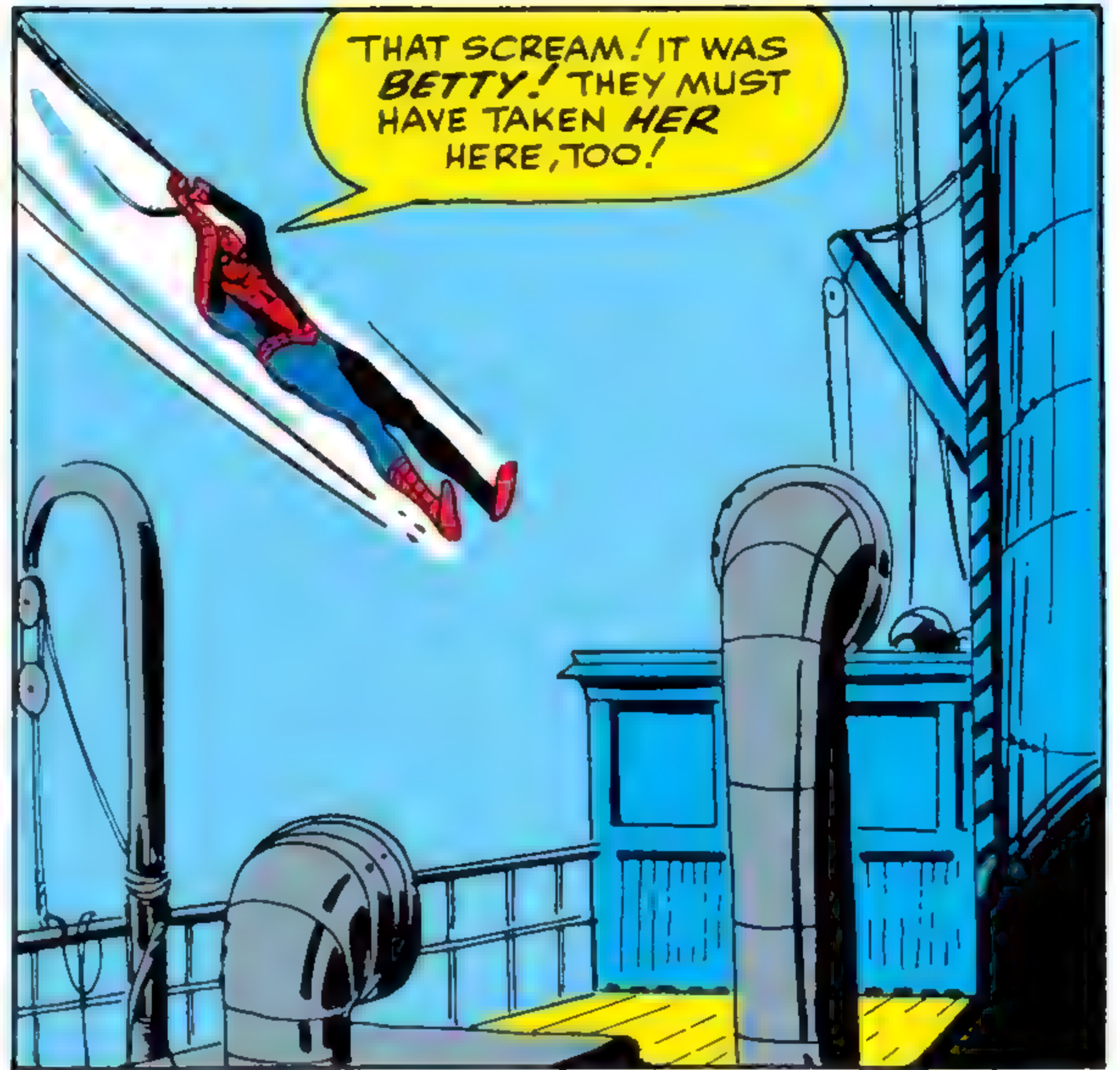
GOOD THING THEY USED
THE CAR WHICH HAD MY GIZMO ON
IT! I WAS ABLE TO PICK UP THE
SIGNAL AND FOLLOW THEM ALL
THE WAY!



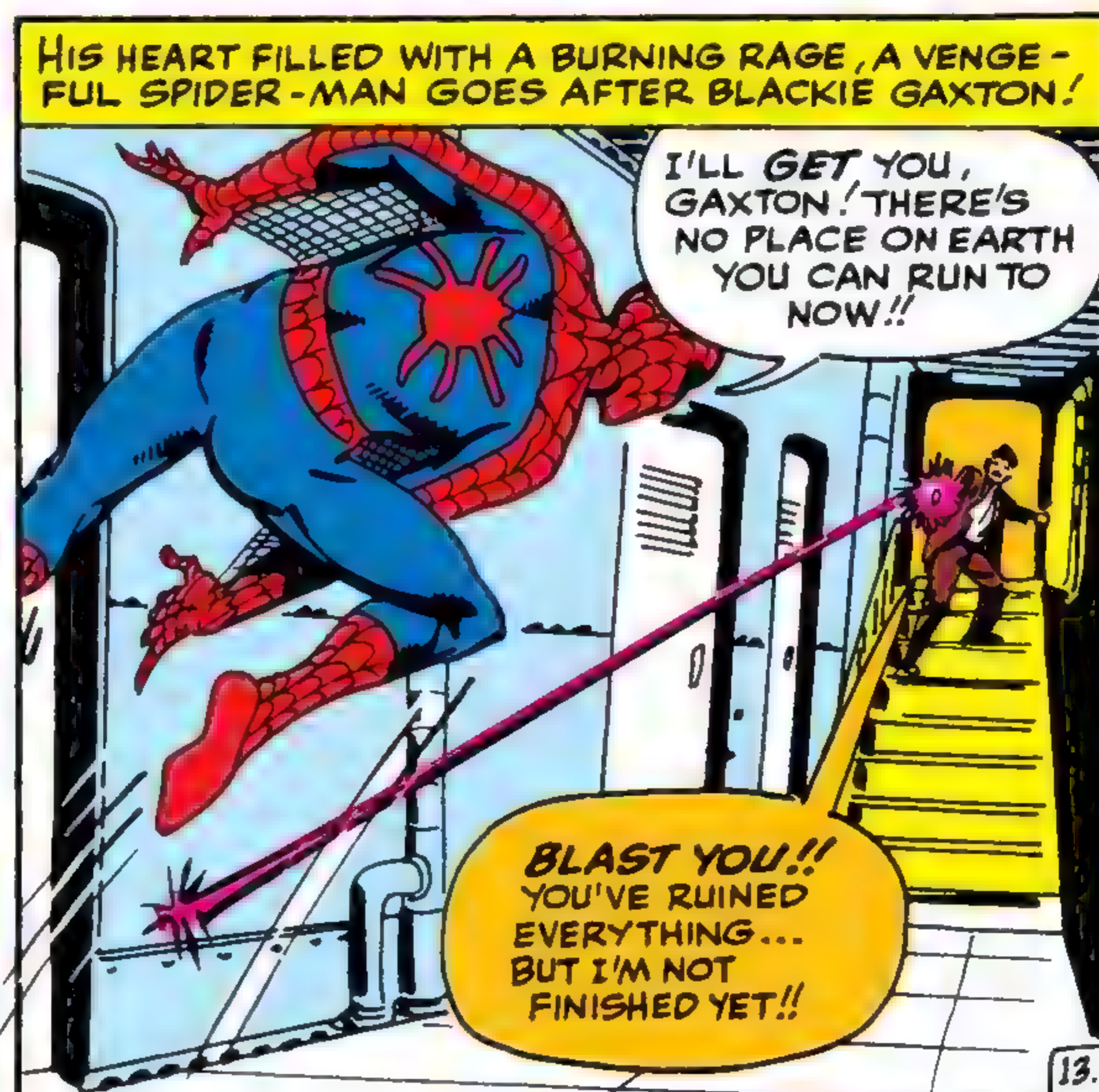
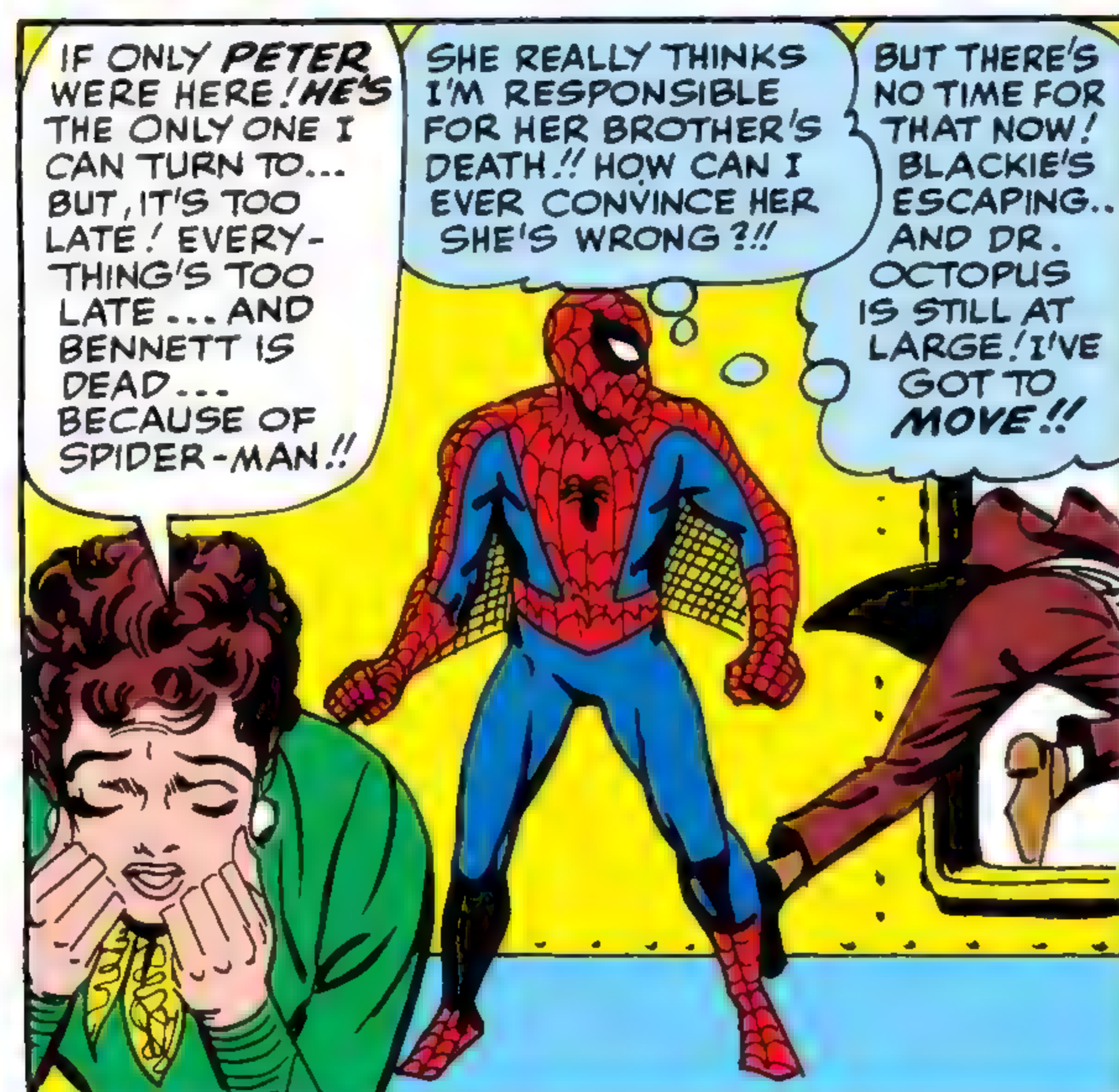
MEANTIME...

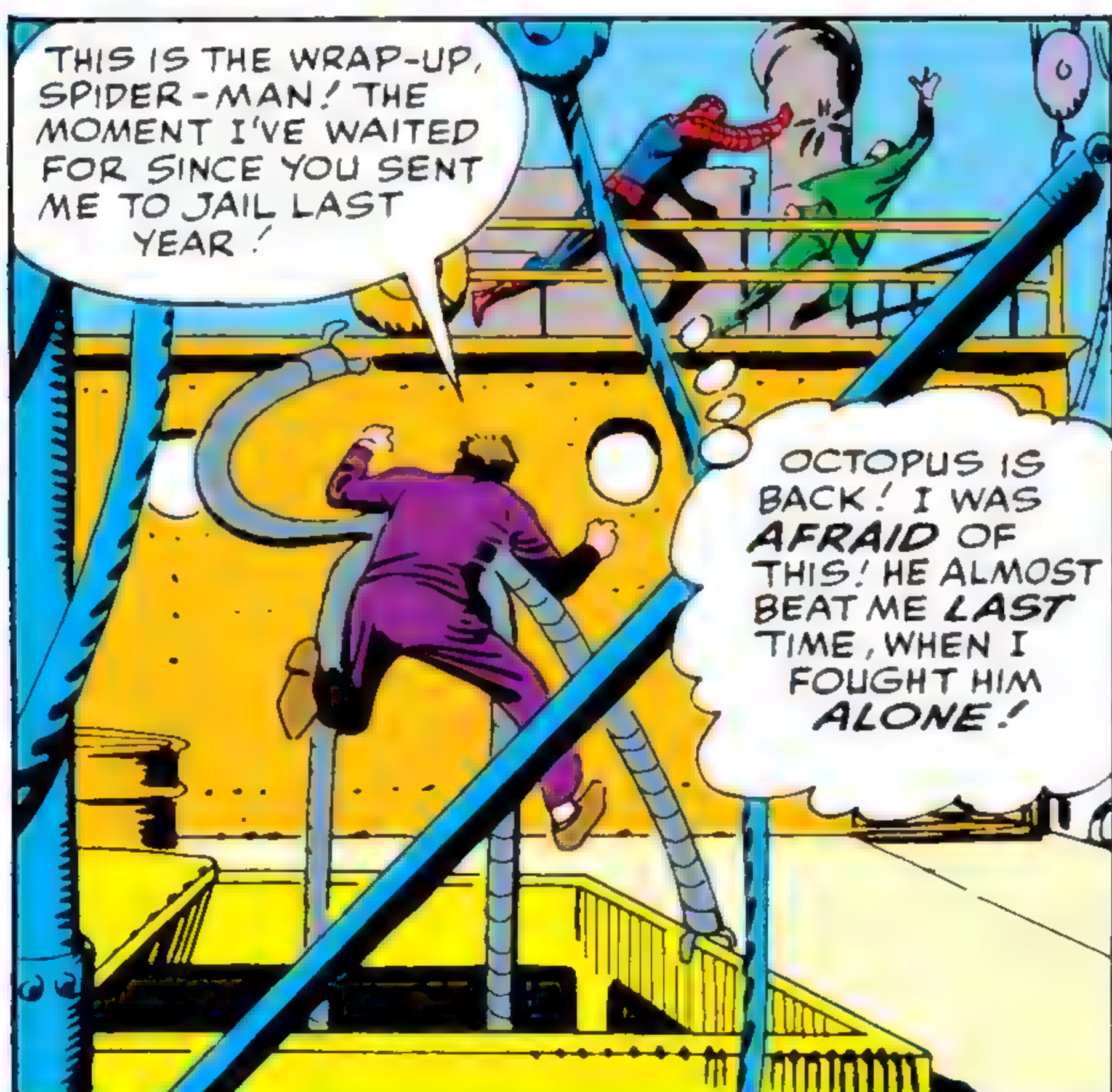
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, BLACKIE!
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU
ASKED! YOU'RE FREE NOW, JUST AS YOU
WANTED TO BE, SO MY DEBT IS CANCELLED!
YOU'VE GOT TO LET US GO!

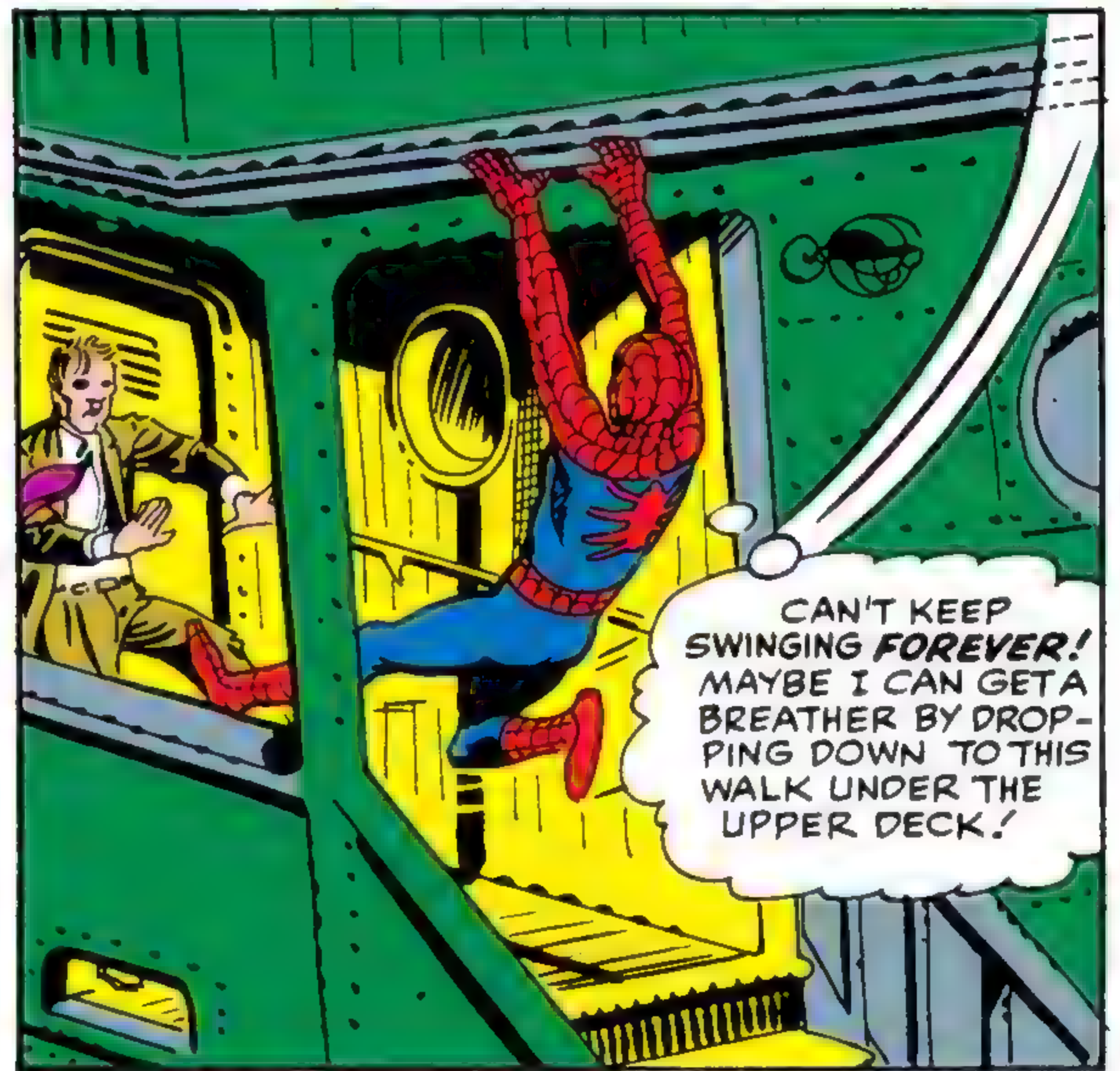
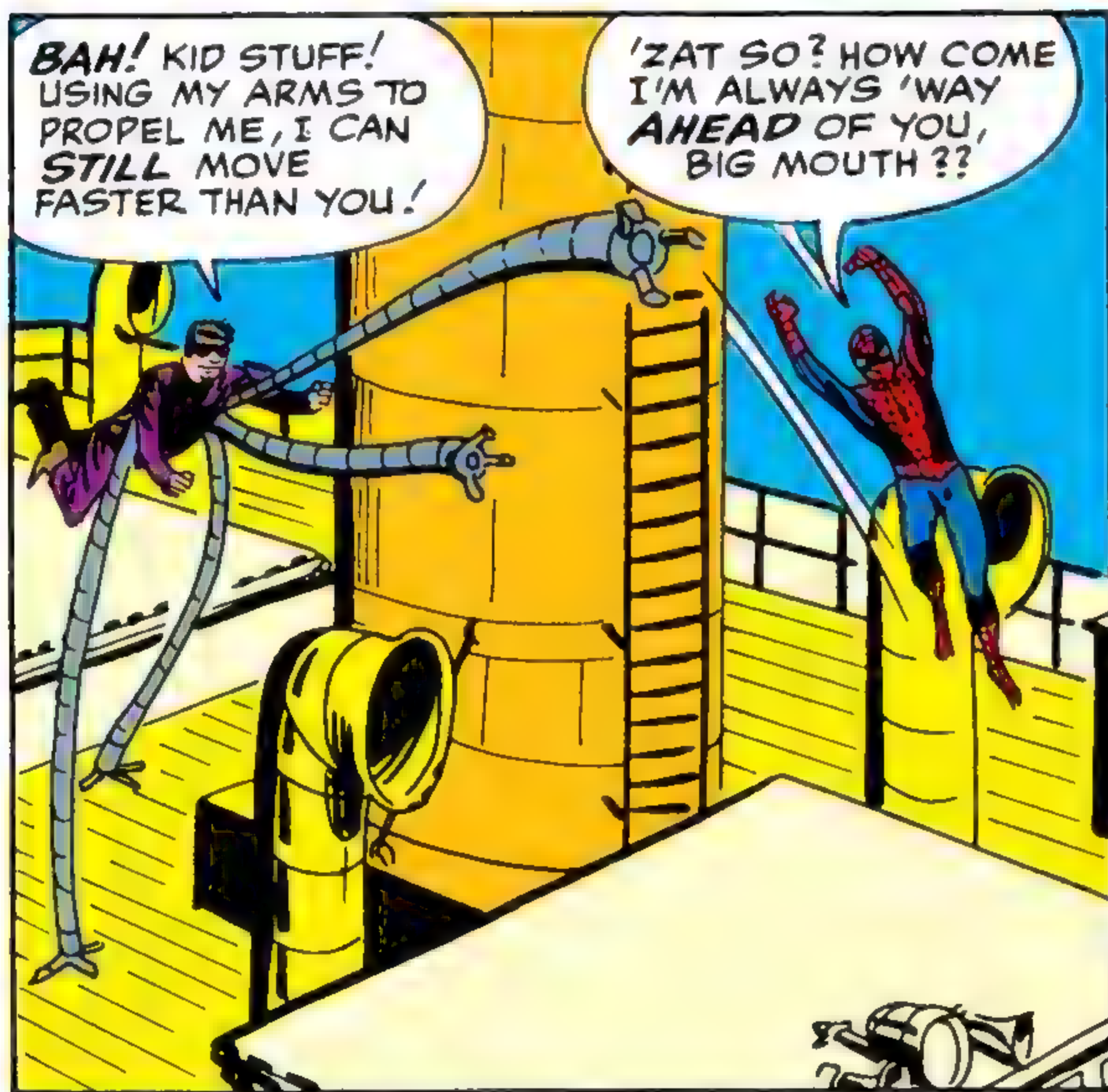
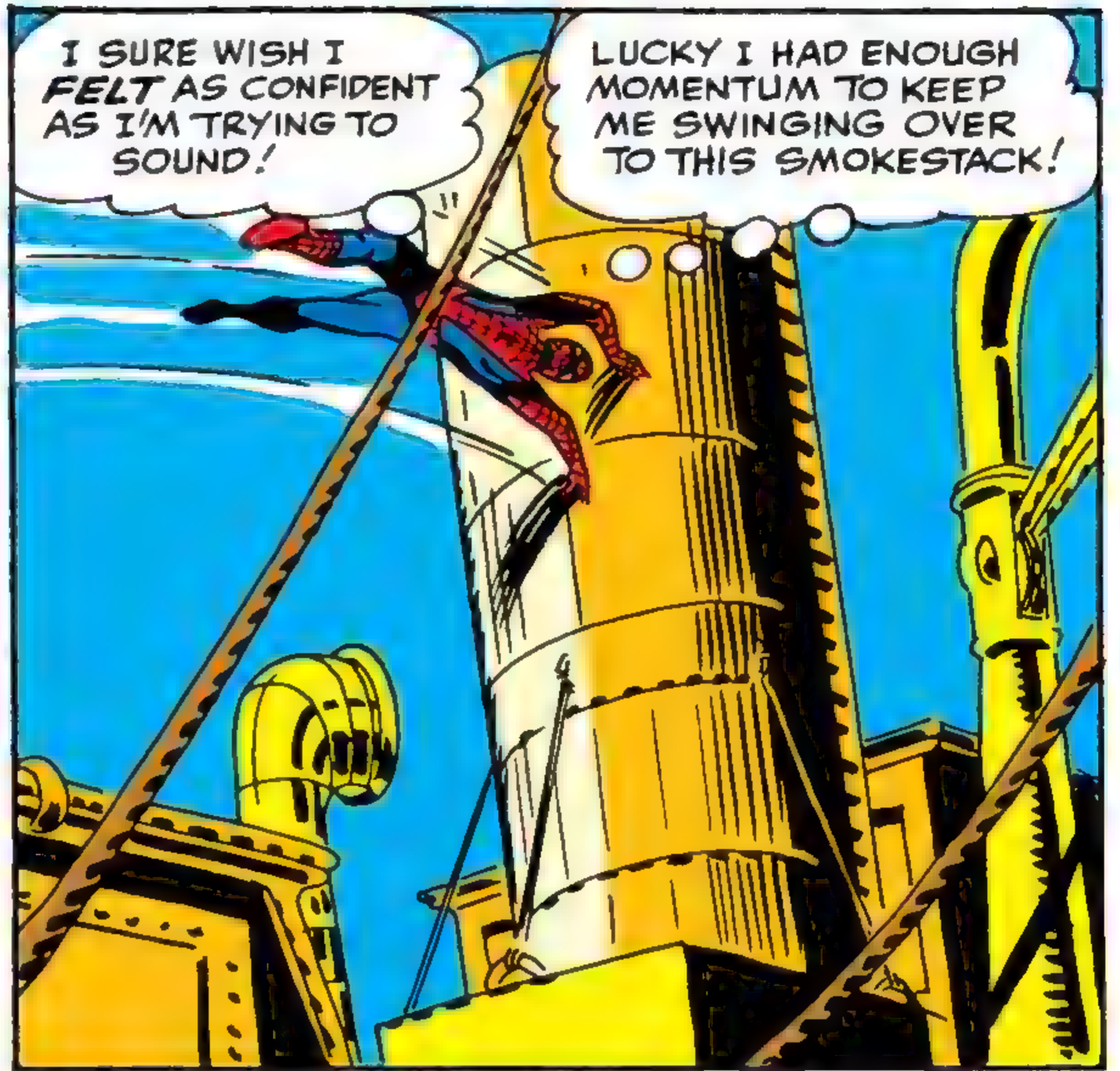
I DO,
HUH?

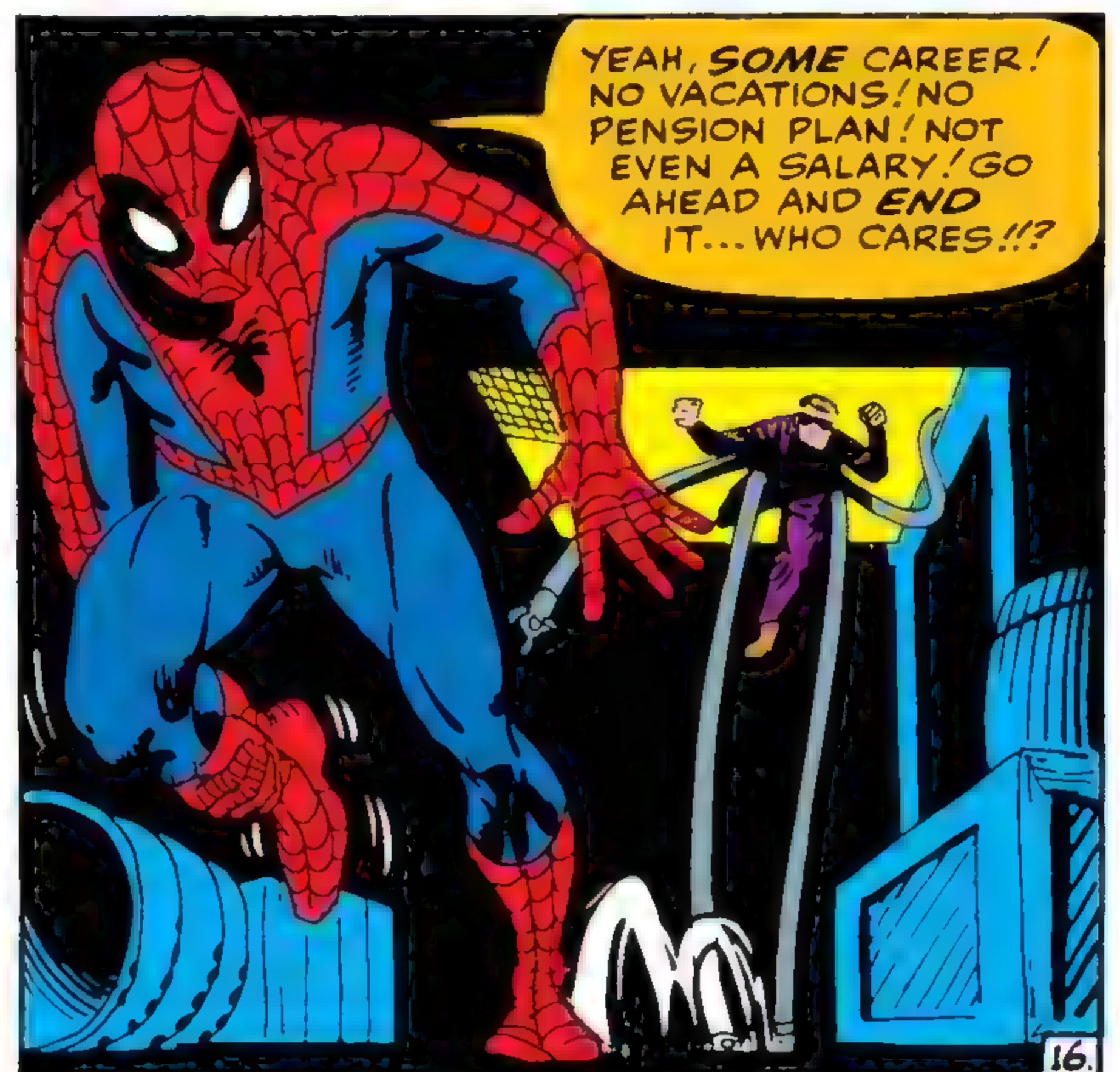
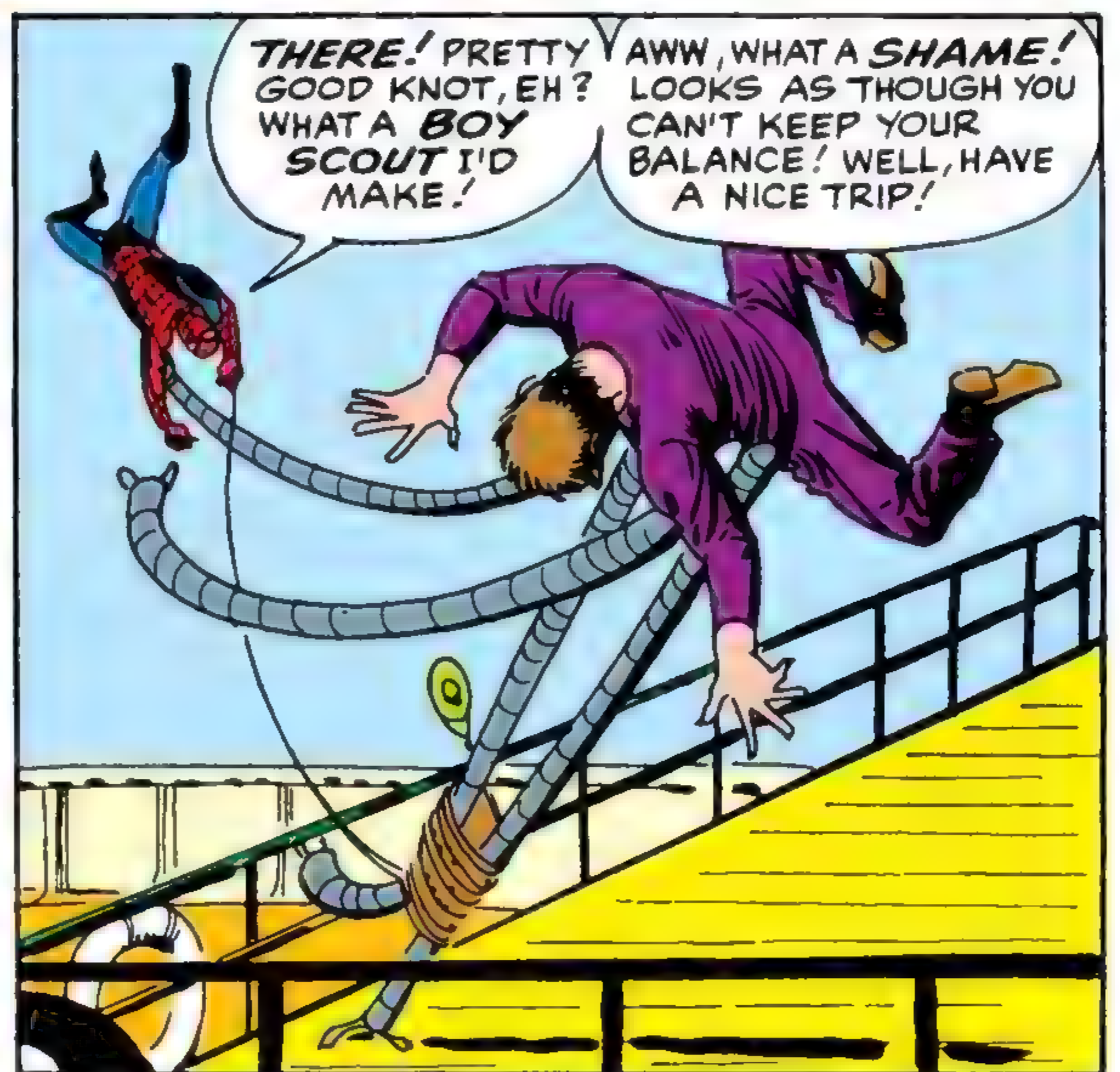
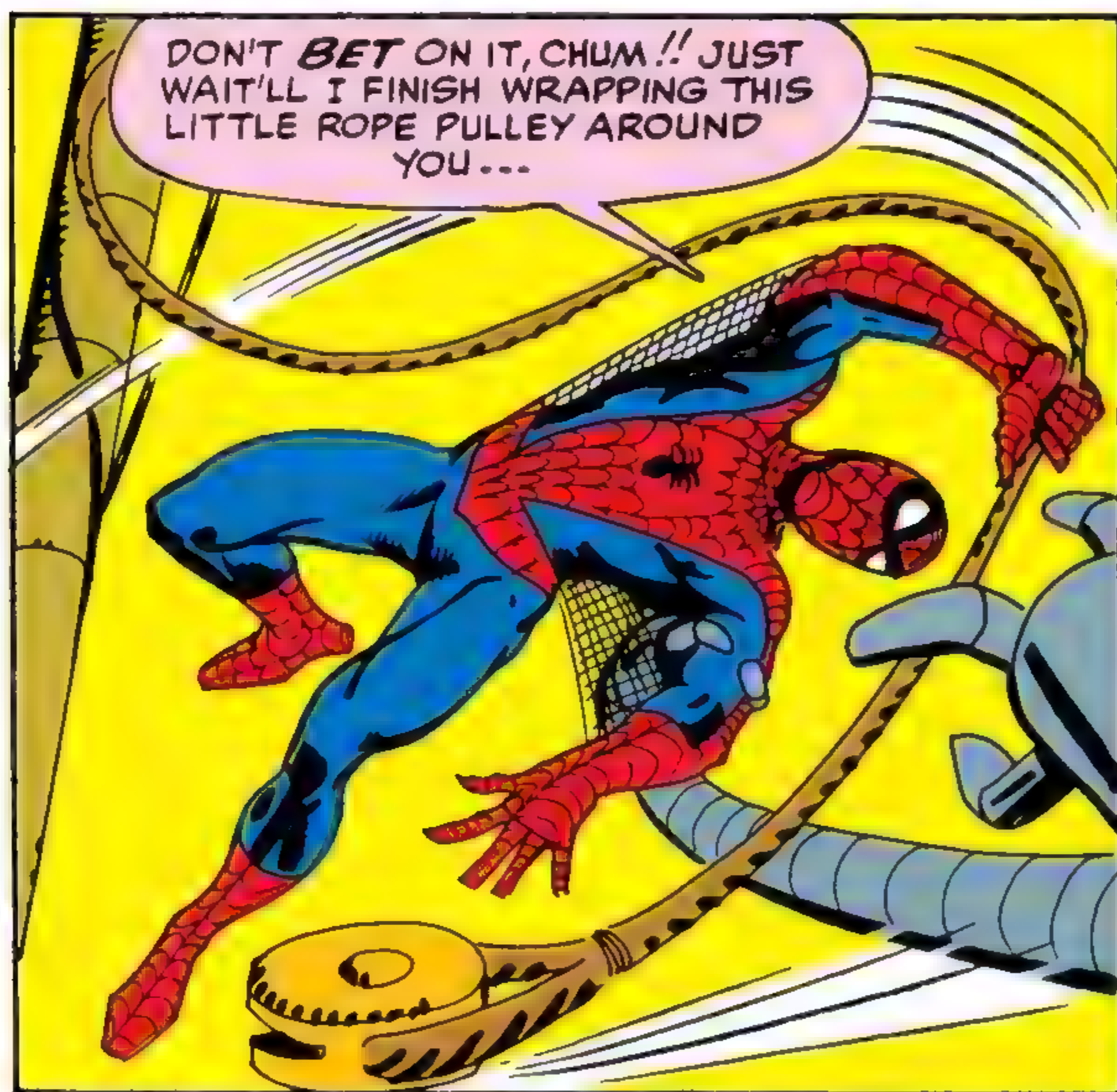
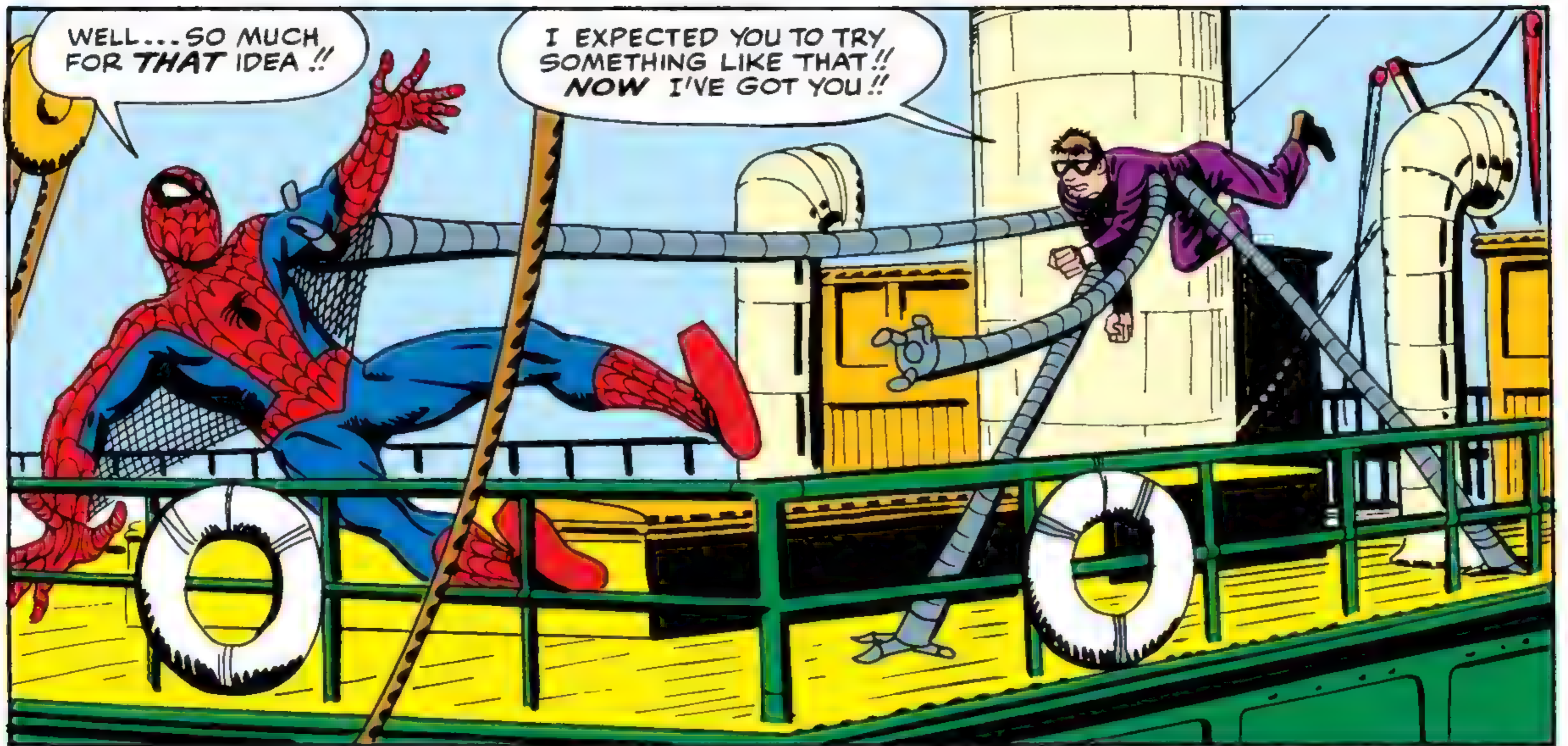


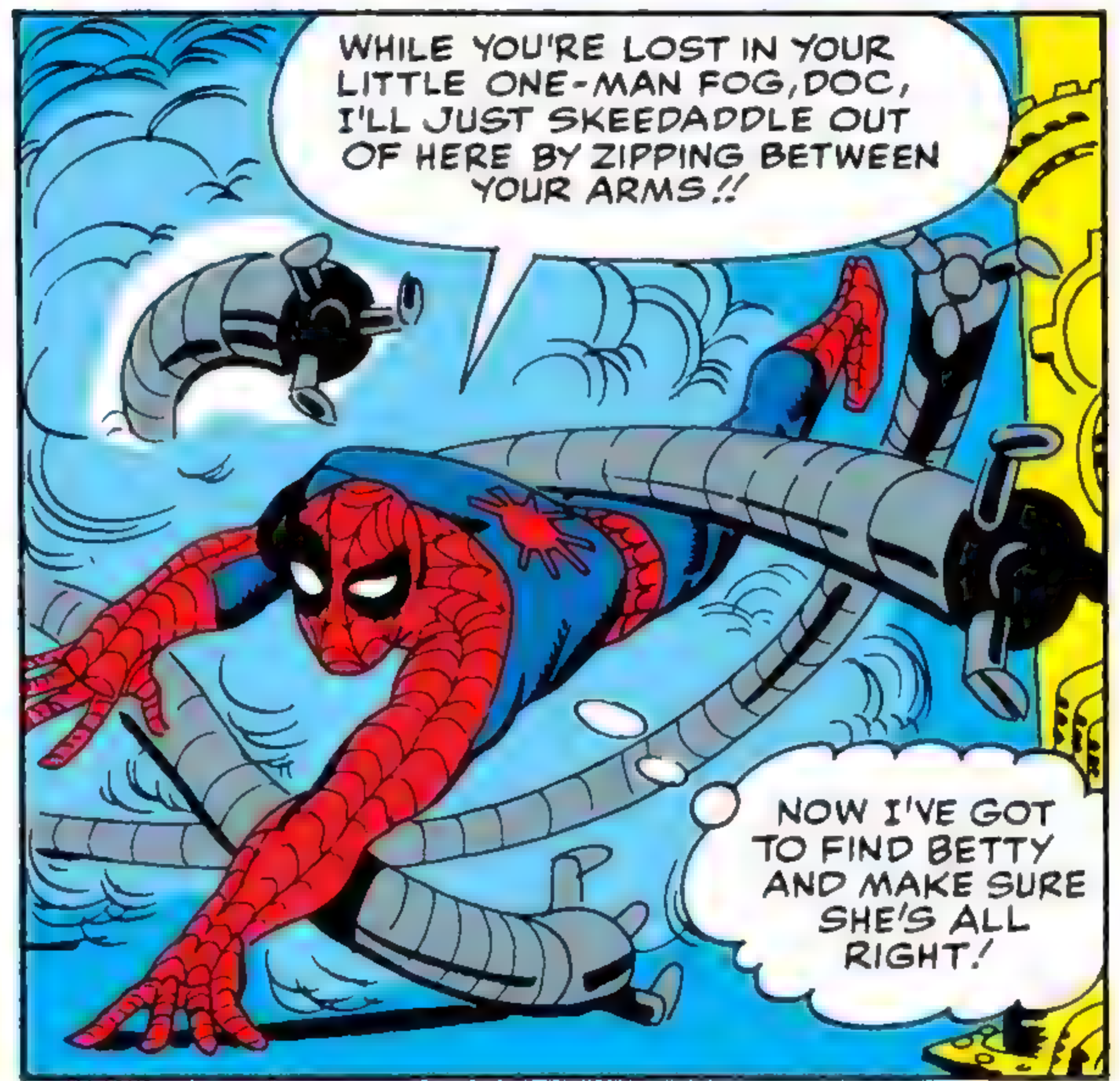
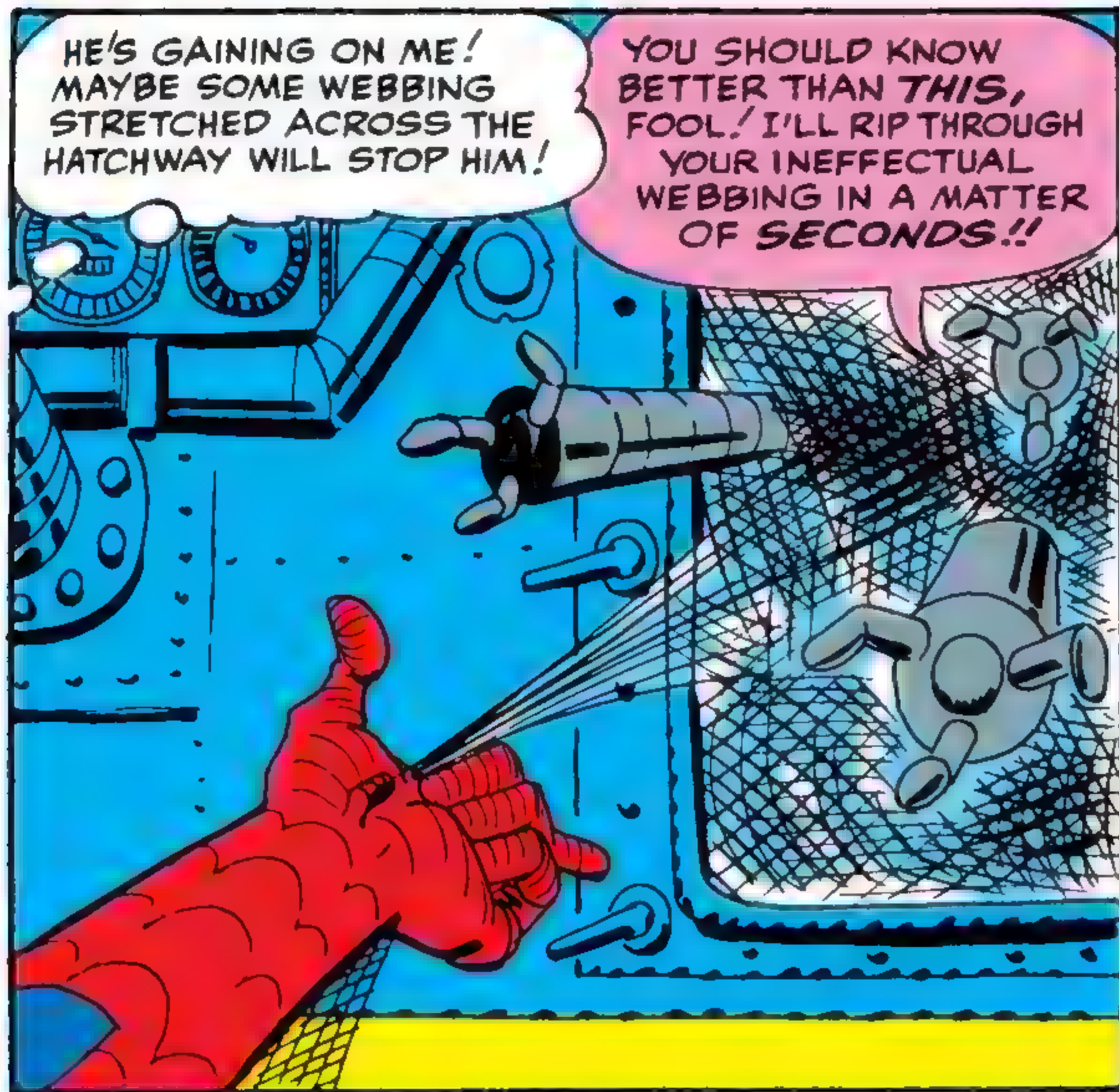


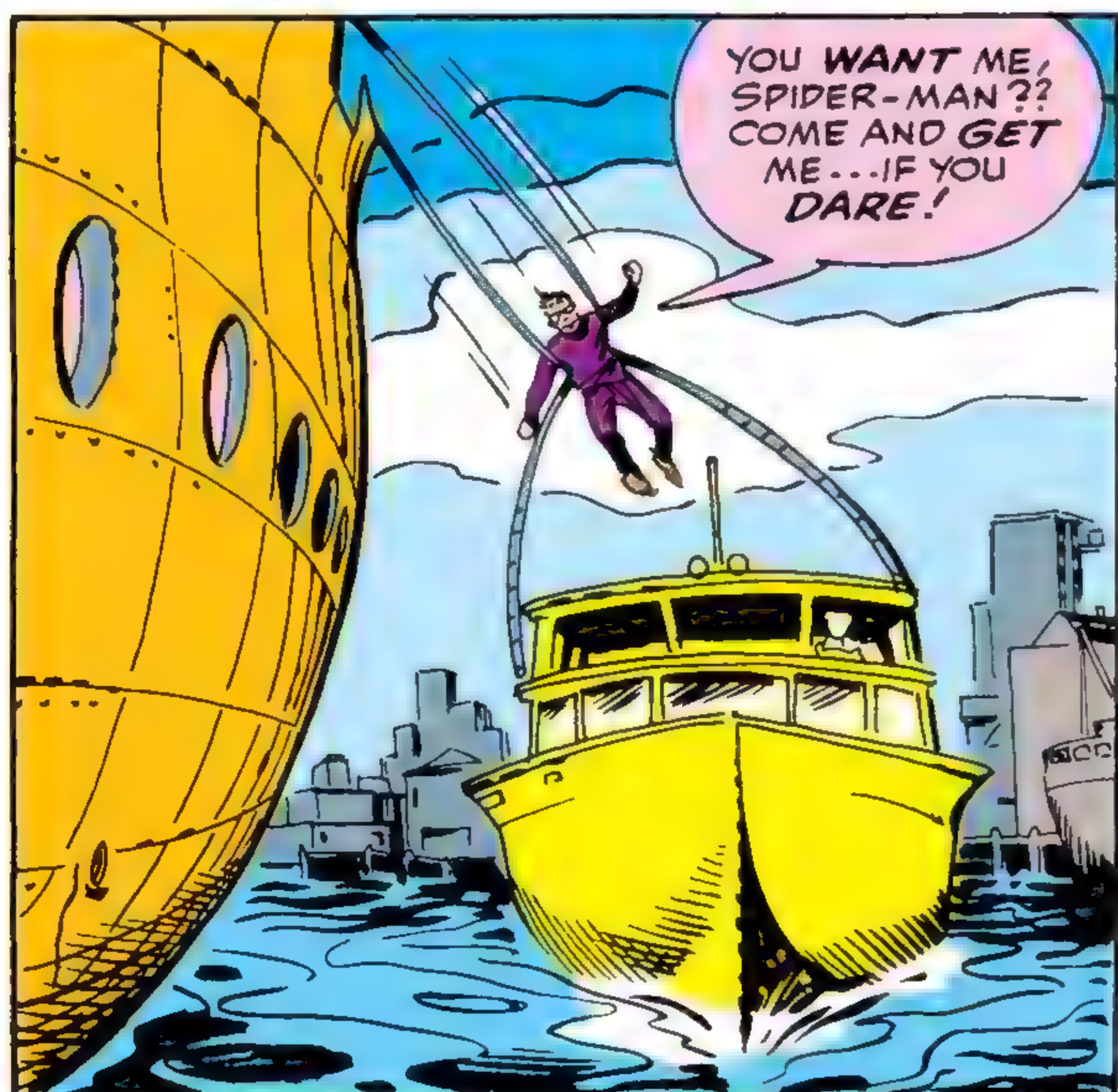


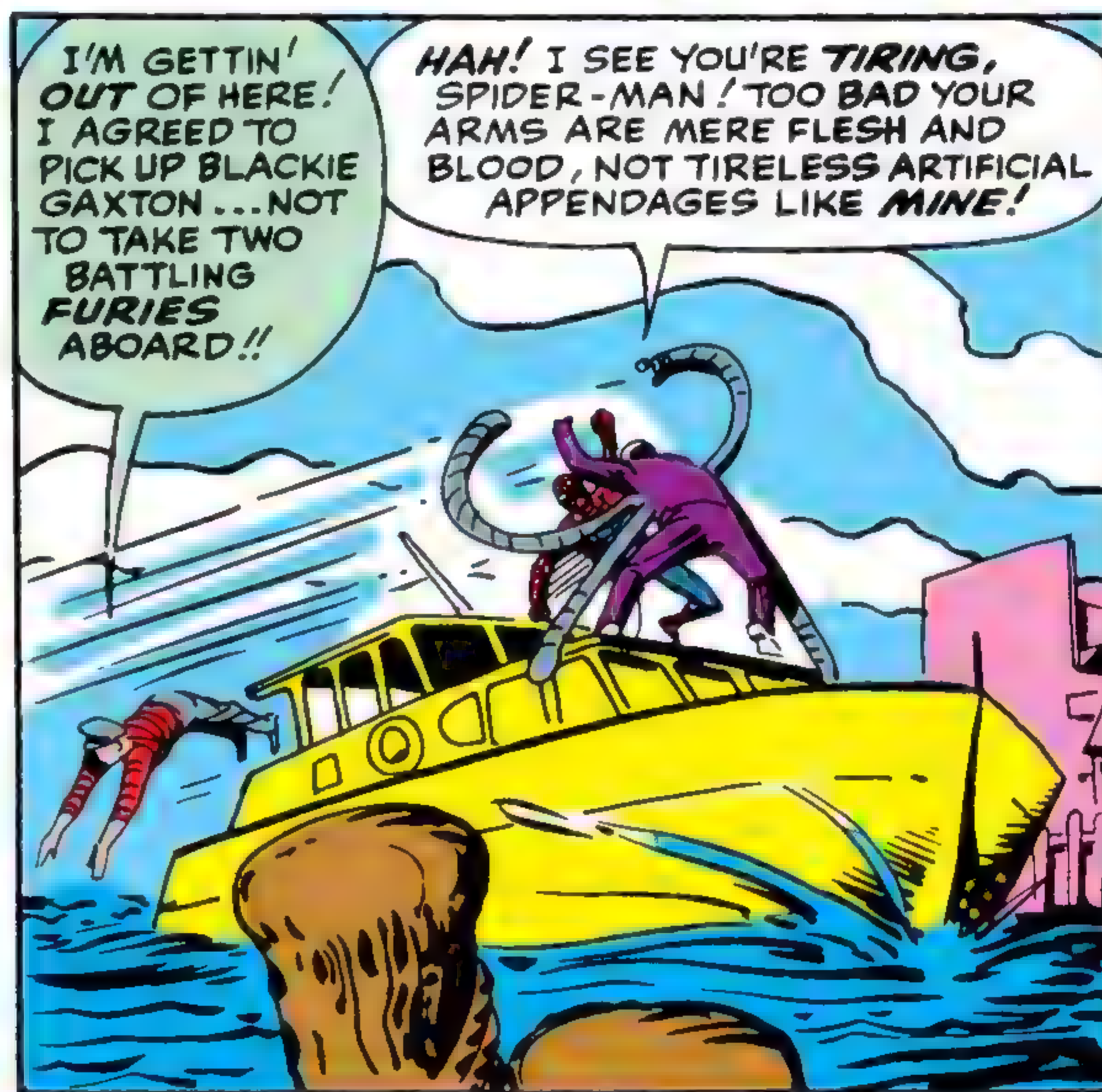
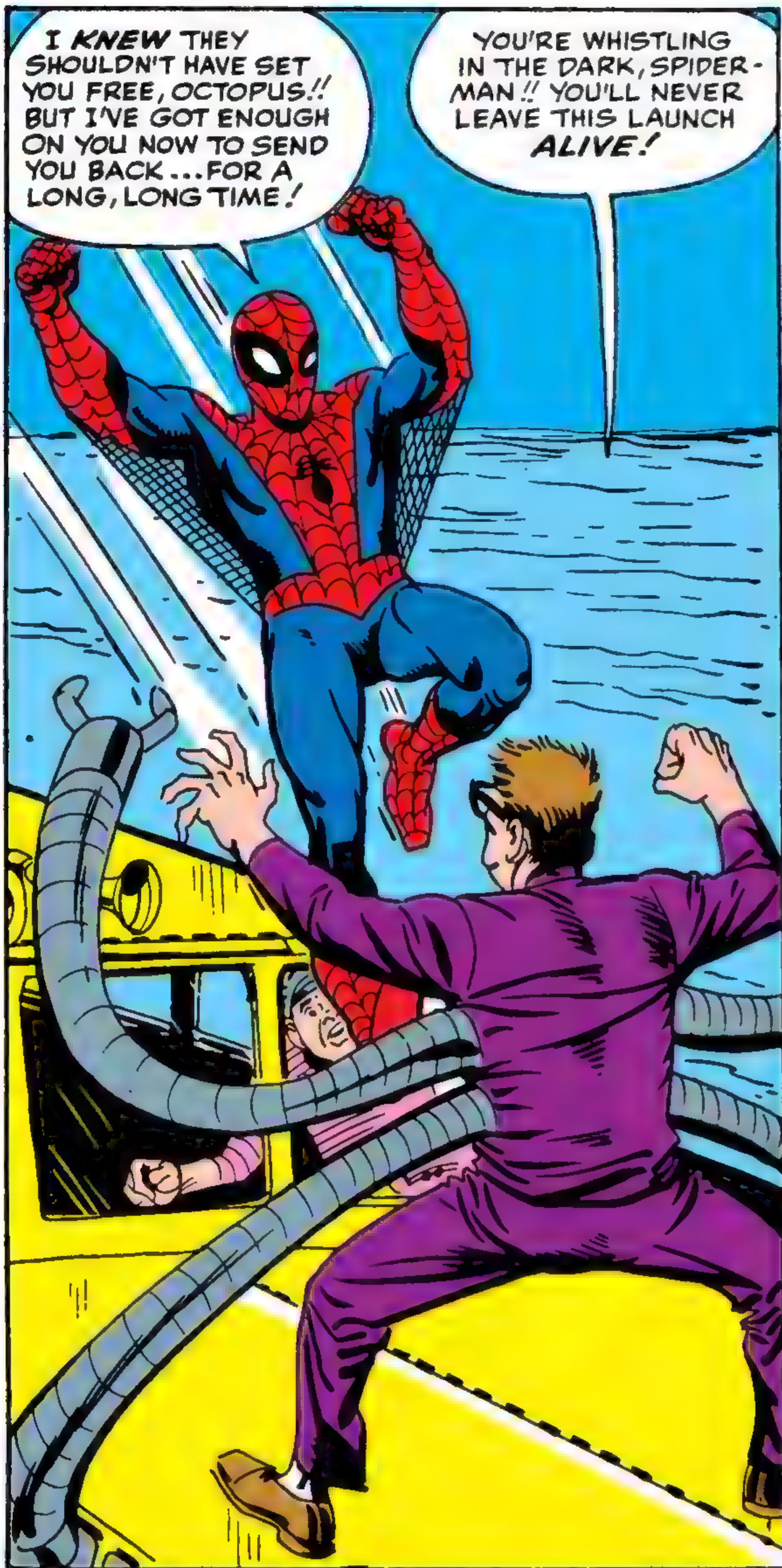


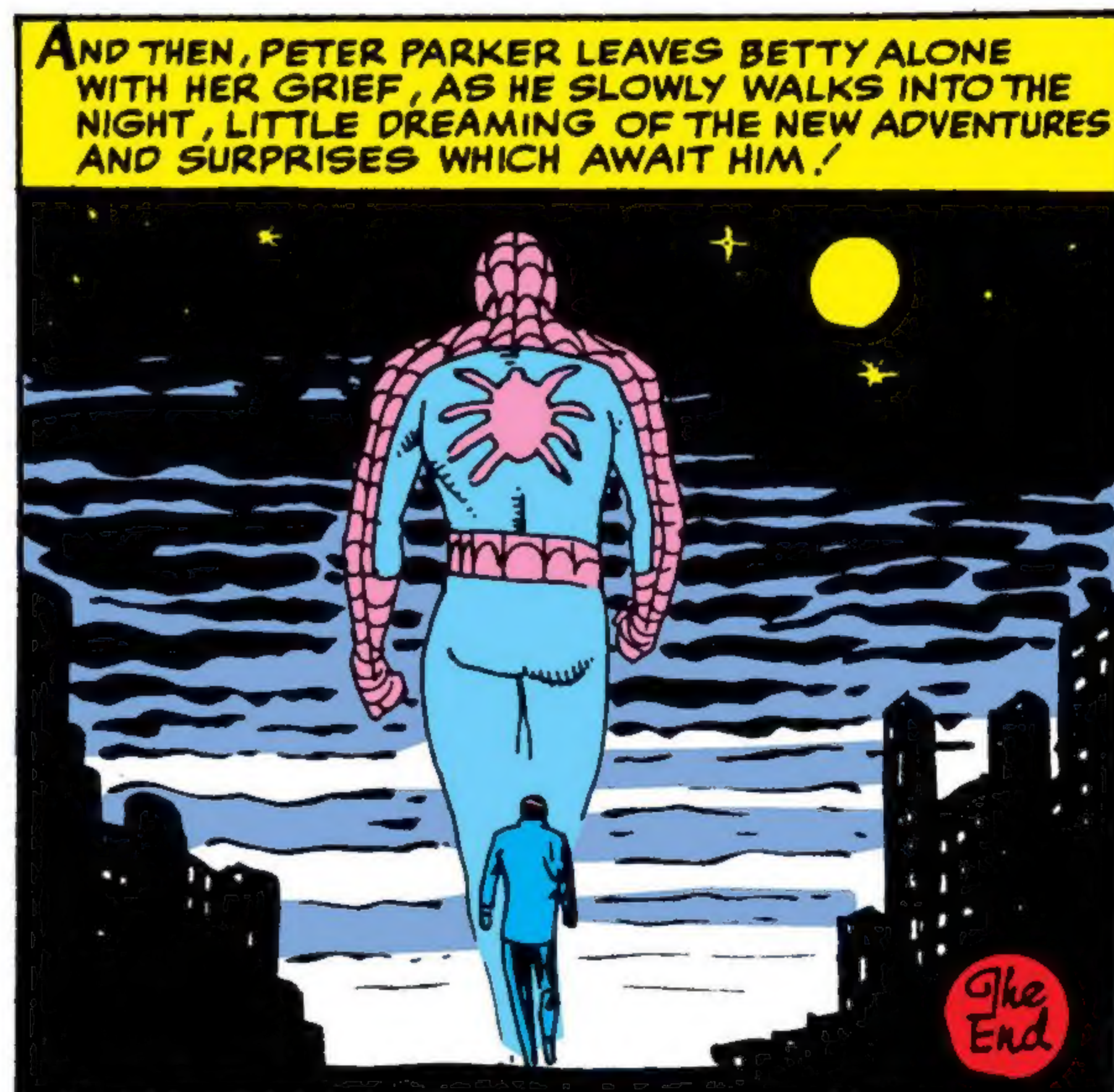
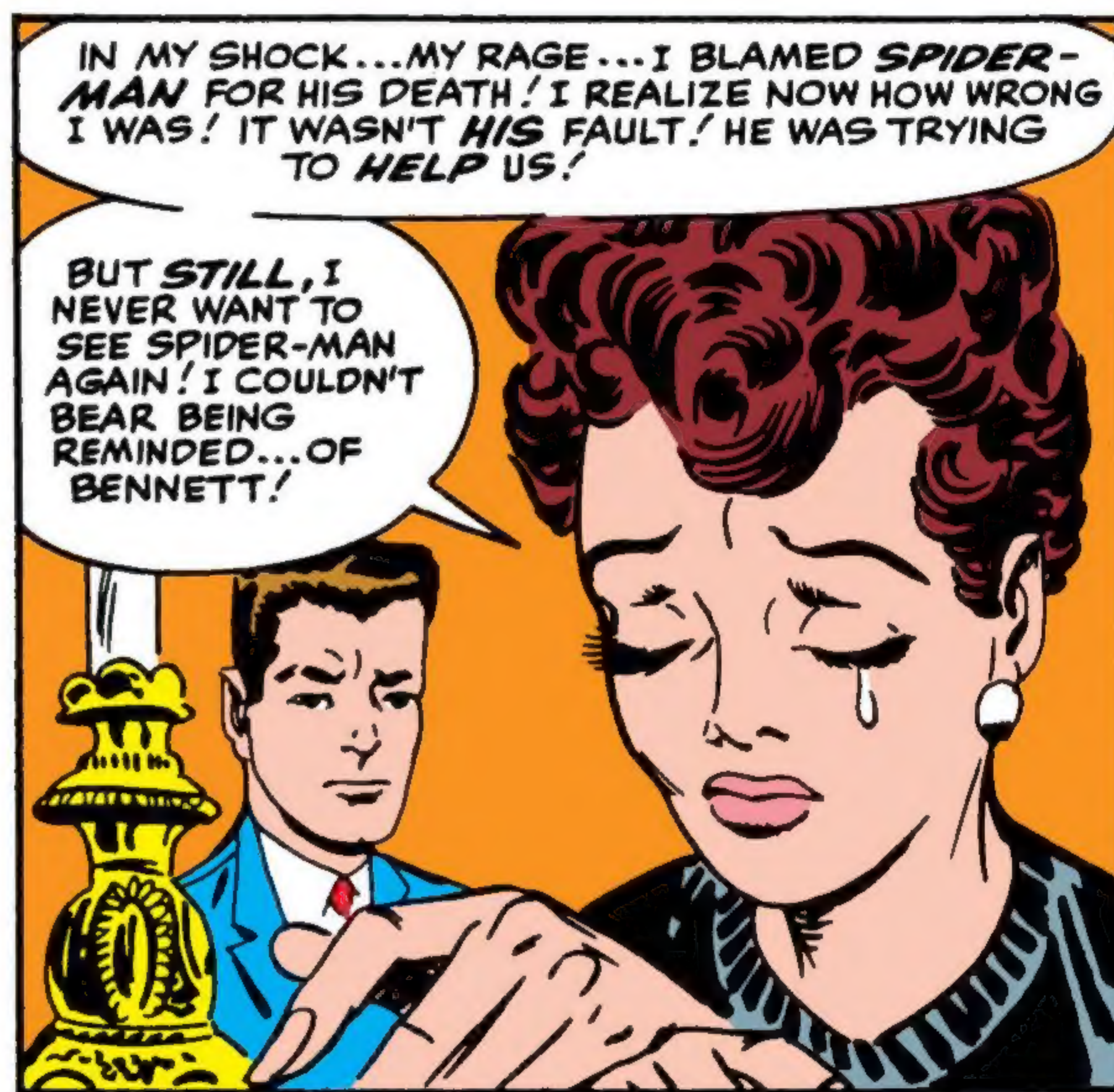


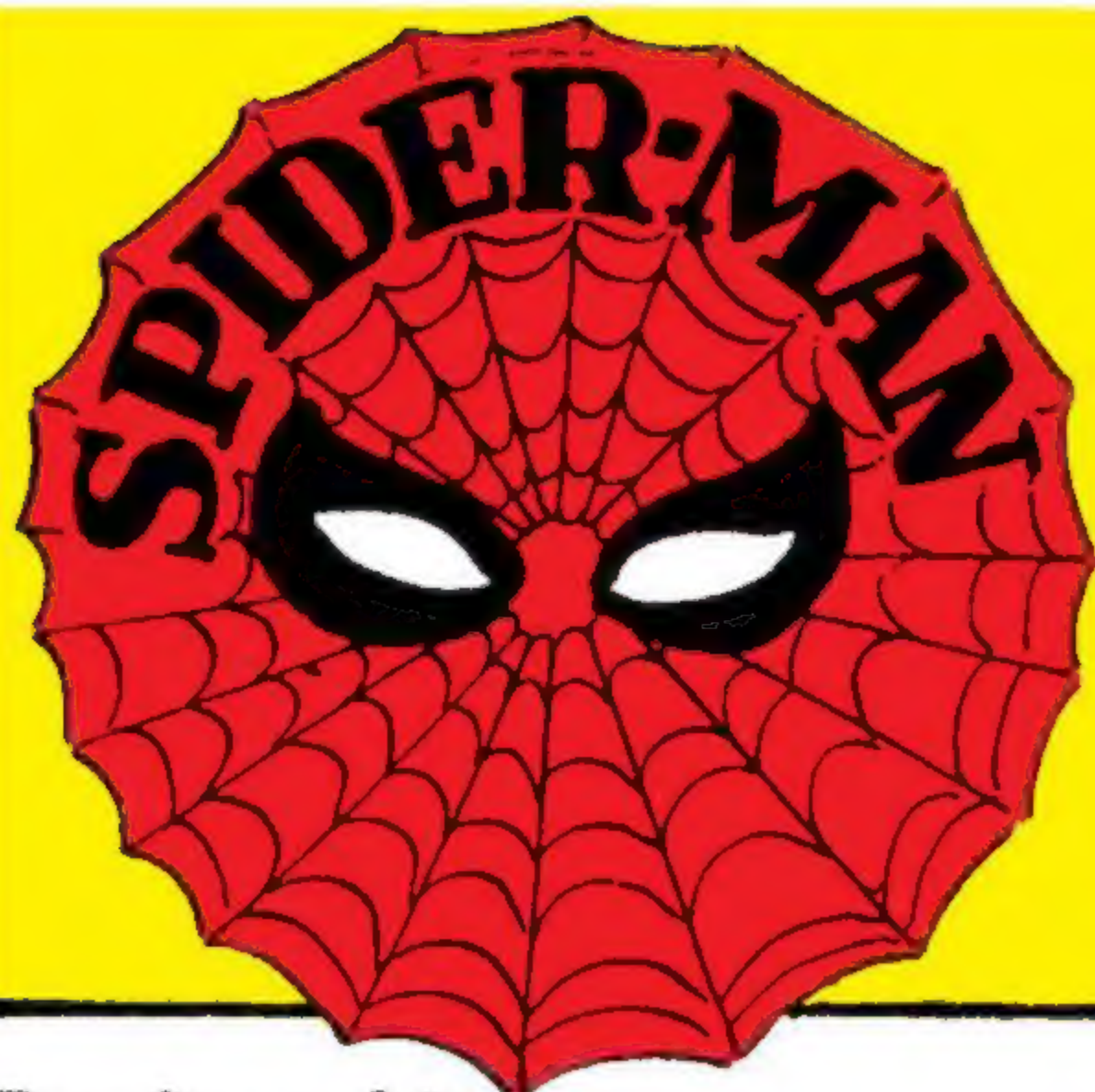












SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

In all my days of comic buying, I have never beheld a finer edition of any comic than SPIDER-MAN #8. Wow, what a way to kick off the 1964 season of comics. I can say that if all the rest of your different publications are at least half as good in story, plot, art and quality as this issue, then you can call all your mags what you call the FF... the greatest comic magazines in the world! What a list of surprises you've dumped on us poor unsuspecting fans. First we see Spider-Man battle a menace with no heart, feelings, or sense of justice. Just one mass of walking brain. You go on to present that classic event... the inevitable fight between Flash Thompson and Peter Parker. And while he didn't give his secret identity away, he still had the satisfaction of having beaten Flash. The way this was presented was brainpower... one thing that your company is famous for. But do you stop here? No! You go on with yet another shocker... another classic meeting between our hero and the Torch. Well, if this isn't the best issue you can come up with, I surely don't know what is. But as we all know, this issue is just another average example of why the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS is here!

Paul Feola
1050 Waverly Ave.
San Antonio 1, Texas

Paul, you took the words right out of our mouths!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just bought SPIDER-MAN #7 and I find it greater than ever! My Mom and Dad do not approve of most comics sold today, but they heartily approve of all of your comics. Did you ever consider putting Spider-Man in the AVENGERS book?

Richy Mastro
329 Hamilton St
Bound Brook, N. J.

Sure! In fact, we've considered putting him everywhere from MODELING WITH MILLIE to THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE!

Dear Stan and Steve,

How do you do it? I have just finished reading the latest SPIDER-MAN and I am puzzled. You guys keep going great. I have read every issue of SPIDER-MAN except #1 and this tops them all. It was absolutely great! The art has never been better; the plot of the story was one of the best I have ever read. How Stan thinks of a different plot for every story is beyond me.

Jeff Brenner
8648 Balboa Drive
Cincinnati 31, Ohio

You say that Stan makes up these plots?? Good heavens! He almost had us convinced the stories were TRUE!

Dear Stan and Steve,

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #8 was certainly a change (for the worse.) The whole story takes place in a school and I do not think that is fair, for the artist cannot show his talent. When I first saw Steve Ditko's art I did not like it, but now I think it's pretty good. But I still like Jack Kirby's art the best. The cover of SPIDER-MAN #8 was poorly done (but it was better than I could do!). The yellow color made it look cheap. I think the insignia of

Spider-Man at the top of the cover should show him standing. In my last letter to you I asked you if you would print my letter saying I wanted to start a Spider-Man Fan Club. In a nice round-about way you said "no" (but nicely). But I still want to start a club! I liked the F.F. #22 very much. I also liked the Invisible Girl's newly discovered powers. I would like to see the F.F. travel in time again soon (like they did in #19). TALES OF SUSPENSE #40 was pretty good, but I would like to see your heroes fighting villains—not themselves! JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #99 was good. But when Mr. Hyde pushed Dr. Blake out of the window and he stamped his hammer on the building wall, didn't anybody see him change into Thor? I do not like the two-part stories you have started publishing. If I wanted a continuous story, I would read the comics in the paper—for free! I do not like the Tales of Asgard. I cannot understand anything that is going on!

Joseph Shea
114 Arbour Lane
Buffalo 20, N. Y.

So what else is new?

Dear Stan and Steve,

The cover of #8 showed Ditko at his best with superb inking on Spider-Man. This cover is sure to sell extra copies. Action covers modified by sidelighted features are always good. I knew it was going to be excellent when I saw the ad in one of your other mags. The first story was Stan's best-written so far and Ditko was also above par. All the little trick surprises helped loads. Spider-Man's tackling the Human Torch was also good, though not as well planned as the other. In this second story, Spider-Man acted a little snobbish and somewhat of a fink. Don't get me wrong, I like all this "realistic" personality biz, but it can get out of hand if over-exaggerated. Spider-Man is in for trouble if he intends to date Sue. What with Namor, Reed and Parker dating her, or at least considering her a better-than-average friend, there's bound to be a rumble sooner or later (idea!). Glad to see you decided to keep the Spider's Web around. Every top-notch super-hero needs one. Each issue of SPIDER-MAN tops the last! Dr. Strange, in STRANGE TALES, was above average this ish. Ditko at his best. The story came closer to giving me a weird feeling than any other S-F story has in years. I've been reading comics for about 10 years now and it takes a pretty good story to get a good rise from me. Your recent Doc Strange and Spider-Man did this. When I read Spider-Man it seems like I can't get to the next panel fast enough. It's so exciting that it's impossible to read slowly!

Dan Fleming
430 Beach St.
Ottawa, Kansas

Good! The faster you read it, the sooner you'll be ready to buy another Marvel mag!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I like the way you put two stories in one mag in your last issue of SPIDER-MAN — #8!

Harlan Reckner
150 Hickory Rd.
Akron 13, Ohio

What do the rest of you web-spinners say? More issues with two stories, or keep the one book-lengthier each month?

CONTINUED...

Dear Stan and Steve,

Your issue #8 of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN was simply priceless. I liked the part where Peter decked Flash. The ending to the second tale was very heartwarming. Yes, I would like to see similar issues appear from time to time. But you made a mistake in the Special Announcements section of the Amazing Spider-Man. You said that Iron Man, the Angel, the F.F., and Spider-Man are in issue #49 of TALES OF SUSPENSE. It should have been Iron Man, the Angel, the X-Men and the Avengers.

John F. Lebar
305 N. Jordan St.
Allentown, Pa.

Our apologies, Johnny boy. We've got so many characters to keep track of that we must be getting groggy! But, we'll be more careful with names from now on, Joe—we mean, Tom—no—John!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Can't you fellas do anything normal? SPIDER-MAN #7 is a wonderful example! Usually a sequel story's not supposed to be as good as the original, but "The Return of the Vulture" has surpassed the original as well as #s 3 through 6! As for this idea of Spider-Man's speaking spider lingo—don't do it! In the past 25 years or so, comics, science-fiction, and pulp magazines have hurled a horde of "something" controlling enemies of evil. Plants, cats, birds, fish, insects, mammals, and animals have all served as foils and stooges for various emirs of justice and freedom. In your comics, let Namor and Henry Pym talk to lower forms of life, (fish and ants) — but keep Spider-Man away from spiders! Don't try to cheapen Spider-Man just to appease, what I believe is, a very small minority.

Leonard J. Tirado
182½ Regent St.
Saratoga, N. Y.

Don't be silly, Len! Nobody can talk to spiders! Next, you'll be suggesting that Spider-Man swings thru the city by shooting out a web!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think that the first and second issue of the Vulture were the best ones out yet. I have a suggestion to make. I think that you should write an issue with a Spider-Man Jr. in it. If you did, I think that it would be an exciting issue. I'm looking forward to your next issue.

Gunter Nautsch
676 Crawford Place
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada

Holy smoke, fella — at least let Pete get married first!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm glad that you finally let Peter give it to Flash in ish #8! The whole story was great — the way you had Spider-Man's identity threatened, the fight, the way the kids called Pete unfair, and especially the end. That was really a clever switch having the kids thinking Flash is Spider-Man. I'm glad he didn't brag that he was. Now get set. You ruined him in the other story. Aren't you getting Spider-Man and Torch mixed up? The party-crashing was what I'd expect from Torch. When you started, Spider-Man was nice and friendly. Now he acts too much like the Torch. You should keep him like he was. I think he should want to make friends with the Torch. Also, that web-heart at the end for Sue — really now, wasn't that silly! At least Torch sticks to flirting with girls his own age. Sue is too old for him, and how old is Jameson's secretary? Well, anyway, your good points still outnumber your bad ones in my book. You'll be hearing from me again soon.

Christine Cassello
8017 S. Muskegon
Chicago, Ill.

Thanks for the warning!

Dear Stan and Steve,

The Ditko art for years has been my favorite type of illustration. (The flat out-of-shape feet, the oversized glasses, and the unfilled-in ears.) This weird style that I

like above any artist makes him appear young. By his drawings I can imagine how he looks. He no doubt is rather thin and wears glasses. I'd like to see how close I came!

Ken Landgraf, Jr.
1405 Geele Ave.
Sheboygan, Wisc.

Fairly close, Ken — but just between us, what's so unusual about flat, out-of-shape feet, oversized glasses, or unfilled-in ears?



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- We've got a surprise for you! Every so often we like to introduce a brand-new mag unexpectedly, without the usual fanfare! We do this when we feel that the new title is so terrific that it needs no previous ballyhoo! And so we proudly announce, for the first time, a great new super-hero whose off-beat exploits will hit the the stands very soon (Feb. 4th, to be exact)! His name is DAREDEVIL, and we believe he will have the same human appeal that Spider-Man has! See if you don't agree! Written by the ol' master, Stan Lee, and drawn by the man who created Sub-Mariner in the Golden Age of Comics — Bill Everett! DAREDEVIL, on sale everywhere — Feb. 4th!
Now, back to the usual biz —
- Have you seen the latest ish of FANTASTIC FOUR yet? It features the precedent-shattering battle between THE THING and THE INCREDIBLE HULK! The demand for this one is sure to be heavy, as the word has gotten around that Jack "Action-King" Kirby really let himself go with the epic battle scenes! The whole Marvel bullpen is proud of FF #25, and we feel we can truthfully say that you've never before seen anything like it!
- For those of you who have thrilled to the meetings between Spider-Man and the Human Torch, we have another treat in store. STRANGE TALES #120 (on sale Feb. 11), features the first meeting between the Torch and one of the X-MEN's most popular characters — the frozen ICEMAN! This one's a beaut!
- And for two of the most thrilling new super-villains you've ever seen, don't dare miss JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #103 (at your stands Feb. 4), which has mighty THOR menaced by the ENCHANTRESS and the startling EXECUTIONER!
- Seen SGT. FURY #6?? (It's on sale now.) Besides the usual battle action, this story introduces one of the most daring new themes ever presented in a comic mag — as timely and provocative as today's headlines! We don't want to spoil your enjoyment by tipping it off in this column, but a 12¢ investment at your dealers will put you in the know! Dig?
- And now — what you've been waiting for! A hint of next month's SPIDER-MAN thriller! Wait'll you see it! Spider-Man actually gets UNMASKED—his identity revealed to J. Jonah Jameson—Betty Brant—the police — everyone! No, it's not an imaginary tale, or a dream episode! It happens! But wait'll you see the twist! And, as if that isn't enough, Doc Ock returns—more dangerous than ever! We won't say any more because as you know—we hate to brag!!! So, till we meet again, keep healthy, keep happy, keep watching for "National Be Kind To Spiders Week!"

The Amazing Spider-Man #11 cover original illustration version
by Steve Ditko

